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# HISTORY

*of*

**ST. JOSEPH BRANCH**

**Women's Missionary Association**

**1878 - 1946**

*and*

**Women's Society Of World Service**

**1946 - 1951**



**1878**

**1951**



*History*

of *Indiana*

St. Joseph Branch

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

*of the*

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

1878 - 1946

*And*

WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF WORLD SERVICE

*of the*

EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

1946 - 1951

"The Lord giveth the word; the women that  
publish the tidings are a great host."

—Psalm 68:11—Revised Version

BY

MRS. C. C. YUND

## OUR PRESIDENTS



Mrs. George Sickafoose  
1878-1883



Mrs. Joseph Richer  
1893-1906  
1910-1911



Mrs. J. C. Fretz  
1906-1910



Mrs. J. W. Lake  
1911-1922

Mrs. E. F. Light  
1883-1893

## OUR PRESIDENTS



Mrs. C. L. Raymond  
1922-1933



Mrs. C. C. Yund  
1933-1946



Mrs. H. C. Holmes  
1946-1948



Mrs. M. E. Reed  
1948-1951

## FOREWORD

It is not possible to portray in words the value of the work that has gone into the making of a missionary organization such as the St. Joseph Branch of the Women's Society of World Service. The account of the many sacrifices and the hours of intercessory prayer will never be written on earth. God alone keeps such a history. The pages of this small book can record only facts and the results of outstanding work accomplished. Many women whose names are not recorded here will have the history of their labors written in the hearts and lives of those whom they served.

In answer to the request of James and John, Jesus said, "He who would be greatest among you, let him be the servant of all." It has ever been true in the lives of Christian women, women who became great, not because of outstanding public works, but because they knew the power of prayer and felt the blessing of sharing.

It was just such a spirit that directed the lives of the pioneer women of the St. Joseph Branch of the Women's Missionary Association. Although their home sphere of service was small, they had a world outlook and a passion for souls. But with meager facilities and little wealth they blazoned the path for other women to follow.

In her "History of St. Joseph Branch," Mrs. Charles L. Raymond writes, "Interest in missions is an attainment, not an endowment; the outcome of a spiritual process." What St. Joseph Branch became and was able to do was the outgrowth of this spiritual process. This branch, which began August 30, 1878, and steadily grew in strength and usefulness over a period of seventy-three years, terminated, as such, the 25th day of August, 1951, at Oakwood Park, Syracuse, Indiana, when it united forces with the Indiana Evangelical Branch and seven societies of the White River Branch of the Women's Society of World Service. These branches became the Indiana Conference North Branch of the Women's Society of World Service. At the time of the merger of these branches, St. Joseph Branch carried a roll of ninety local societies, nine Christian Service Guilds and twelve Girls' Missionary Guilds, with a total membership of three thousand, four hundred forty-nine.

We present these pages of history with a feeling of deep joy and gratitude that God has permitted women to share in the response to the Great Commission, "Go teach all nations." May the spirit of sacrifice and devotion of the pioneer missionary women invade the hearts of the women of our church today that we, too, may serve with a God-directed passion which knows no defeat.

Mrs. M. E. Reed.

**HISTORY OF ST. JOSEPH BRANCH**  
of the  
**Women's Missionary Association—1878-1946**  
**United Brethren in Christ**  
and  
**Women's Society of World Service—1946-1951**  
**Evangelical United Brethren Church**

"Believing that the promulgation of the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world depends upon the success of Christian missions, and that the responsibility of this success devolves upon all Christians, we therefore do, in obedience to the command of our risen Lord and Savior, 'Go ye therefore into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature . . . ' hereby, in the name of the divine Master and moved, we trust, by the Holy Spirit, organize ourselves into a missionary association."\*

These words indicate the spirit and the purpose of our pioneer women when, on August 30, 1878, they organized the St. Joseph Branch of the Women's Missionary Association.

It had been twenty-three years since the first missionaries had been sent by the United Brethren in Christ to locate a mission in Africa. It had been six years since the historic meeting in Dayton, Ohio, when the first branch, Miami, was organized, and the Women's Missionary Association was just three years old, having come into being in 1875.

There is no record of the presence of any representative from St. Joseph Conference at the 1875 meeting in Dayton, Ohio, when the Women's Missionary Association was organized, but the minutes record that "a letter which was full of encouragement and Christian sympathy was received from Mrs. Fisher of Roanoke, Indiana."

The ministers and the women of St. Joseph Conference had been watching with growing interest the movement toward the forming of local and conference missionary societies for women in other parts of the denomination. The two periodicals, *The Religious Telescope* and *The Missionary Visitor*, were carrying articles, sometimes encouraging and sometimes discouraging the women in their efforts. Throughout the denomination small societies were meeting for prayer and study and offerings were being received for missionary work.

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\*Constitution of Miami Branch, organized May 9, 1872.

It was during a session of St. Joseph Conference, held at North Manchester, Indiana, on August 30, 1878, that the branch was organized. Bishop Jonathan Weaver preached a missionary sermon on Sunday afternoon and it was he who presided later that day when the branch was formally organized and its officers elected. They were as follows:

President—Mrs. George Sickafoose (Mrs. Ellen)

First Vice President—Mrs. Fletcher Thomas (Mrs. Mary Jane)

Second Vice President—Mrs. G. W. Sickafoose (Mrs. Rachael)

Secretary—Mrs. E. F. Light (Mrs. Sallie, or Sarah, J.)

Treasurer—Mrs. John R. Brown (Mrs. Rebecca D.)

Much of the success of the new venture was due to the fine co-operation of the ministers of St. Joseph Conference. The presiding elders were to have the supervision of organizing societies in their districts. The minutes of the conference at which the branch was organized carried a resolution "That we look with favor upon the movement now on foot among our sisters to organize a women's missionary society and that we appoint one of our number to confer with them, especially those within the bounds of our own conference, and render whatever assistance we can to constitute such organization and to make it successful."

The conference minutes also stated, "We recognize in the Women's Missionary Society an important ally, and will look approvingly on its efforts and pray for its success." This item was copied in the Religious Telescope.

There were few rules to guide the new societies as they were organized. The Religious Telescope of March 22, 1878, carried the following action of the Women's Missionary Association, "Local societies meet on the first Thursday of the months of April, July, October and January. The annual branch meeting takes place the third Thursday in April. The meeting of the Board of Managers takes place the first Wednesday in May. At the April meeting local societies re-organize for the ensuing year, and to elect delegates to the annual branch meeting. At the April meeting, branch societies re-organize for the ensuing year, and elect delegates to the annual meeting of the Board of Managers, which will be held the first Wednesday in May."

#### 1879

At the end of the first year, a convention was held at North Manchester and seven societies were reported. The treasurer reported receipts of \$80.73. The secretary recorded that there were nine delegates and three officers present, representing

societies at North Manchester, Huntington, and Mt. Zion (Huntington Circuit). Societies not represented were: Forest Chapel (Colburn Circuit), Maple Grove (Berrien Circuit), Pipestone and Sodus, both on the Sodus Circuit, in Michigan.

There were morning, afternoon and evening sessions with Mrs. Fletcher Thomas conducting the devotions. There were reports by the delegates and, as the minutes stated, "there were remarks from different persons." She added, "Being organized so short a time and all considered, we have much to encourage us. The reports of the delegates were good and we feel that the Master is leading us." The offering at the convention was \$5.27. All officers were re-elected and Mrs. George Sickafoose and Mrs. R. D. Brown were elected delegates to the annual meeting of the Board of Managers to be held in Dayton, Ohio. An offering of \$1.50 was taken to help with their expenses.

The Religious Telescope carried a report of the 1879 annual conference with this paragraph concerning the women's missionary work, "We have good reports of their work in this conference. I do not know how many local societies they have, but they have raised all their assessment for the house in Africa and are full of zest for future operation. No doubt they will succeed for they are living the right kind of higher life there. By their fruits shall ye know them."

The "house in Africa", to which reference was made, was the first definite project undertaken by the Women's Missionary Association. At the annual Board meeting in 1879 which Mrs. Sickafoose and Mrs. Brown attended, it was decided to raise \$1000 for a comfortable home for Mrs. Mary Mair, missionary at Rotifunk, Sierra Leone, West Africa. Assessments were made to the various branches, St. Joseph's share being \$50. This assessment was made in June, 1879, and it was paid in full on September 6 of the same year.

According to the minutes of the 1879 Board meeting, Mrs. Sickafoose, along with delegates from other branches "made remarks respecting the progress of the work in the different conferences represented by them." The secretary further recorded that "It was pretty fully developed that these women aim not to collect money which would go into the general missionary channel, but to so organize the women and so enlist them in the cause of missions as that the contributions in that direction may be increased." This statement was made in answer to the criticism that the women were raising and sending in money for which credit should have been given to the local churches.

A great deal of discussion at the 1879 Board meeting was upon the subject of money, especially upon the best way of

securing funds to pay the traveling expenses of delegates from the various conferences. This question plagued the branches for many years and occasioned much discussion at the annual Board meetings. The minutes of the 1879 Board meeting stated that "Mrs. Sickafoose said that she would be glad to pay part of her own expense."

Reports seem to have appeared early in the life of the Association. The Missionary Visitor of January 9, 1879, carried this item, "There is still some complaint from the branch associations that the local secretaries fail to send their reports. We have endeavored to supply every local secretary with blank reports which are easily filled out. What is the trouble? Maybe procrastination is the thief that robs us of our reports. You say, 'Oh, there's no hurry now. I'll send the report next week, when I'm not so busy.' Take this advice: Make out the report the very evening after the meeting and get it into the post-office as soon thereafter as possible. If you are a worker and wait until you are not busy, you will wait until you are dead."

#### 1880

By the time the second annual convention was held at North Manchester in 1880, there were thirty-six local societies with a total membership of 556, and reported receipts of \$413.21. Forty-five women responded to roll call. The minutes contained the following paragraph, "Bro. (George) Sickafoose presented a paper containing forms from the C. W. and M. Railroad by which all delegates and visitors to this convention might return at one-fifth rates." In addition to the re-election of all officers, Miss Nora Jackson was chosen treasurer of a contingent fund which was mainly for the purpose of paying delegates' expenses to Board meetings. The June 8 issue of the Religious Telescope carried the item, "The success of the year was due to Mrs. Mary Ellen Sickafoose who devoted all of the past winter in organizing local societies in the Warsaw district until every charge has one or more of these bodies."

#### 1881

The third annual convention was held at Silver Lake. Four societies reported one hundred fourteen garments contributed for Africa. Several societies reported introducing missionary boxes to enlist the children in the work. Mrs. A. L. Billheimer, the first woman missionary sent by the United Brethren Church to Africa, attended the convention and gave an address, "Our Work In Africa." She had returned to this country and had been appointed organizer for the Association, and was visiting the various branches to encourage

them and to instruct them. She announced that Henry Walters of Wabash County, Indiana, would donate the yearly rents of a farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres located in Madison County, Missouri, to the society. The donation was gratefully accepted. The matter of life memberships and life directorships was presented by Mrs. E. F. Light and Mrs. Billheimer. Three people gave their names as life directors and fifty-one as life members. One of the new life members was "Mother Sexton", the first woman preacher in the conference, who was given a warm vote of thanks for her presence and words of cheer. It was voted to transfer her life membership to the Osage Conference Branch to which she was moving. Bishop Noah Castle delivered a most interesting address relative to the condition of the Chinese on the Pacific Coast. An offering of \$114.35 was taken "for the purpose of sending a missionary to those people." The following resolution was passed: WHEREAS the cause of the Chinese on the Pacific Coast has been urged with great earnestness from time to time, in such manner as to force conviction on the minds of the sisters that this call is of God, RESOLVED that we request the Board to look with favor on this enterprise and we pledge ourselves as a branch society to stand by the Board in the prosecution of this work. Donations of \$50 from Warsaw District Sunday School Association and \$50 from St. Joseph Conference "were received with rejoicing". Total receipts for the year, \$634.45. All officers were re-elected. Delegates to the meeting of the Board of Managers at Western, Iowa, were Mrs. Fletcher Thomas and Mrs. E. F. Light, but Mrs. Sickafoose attended instead of Mrs. Thomas. It was at the 1881 Board meeting that the Association decided to publish a magazine, and subscriptions were taken. It was decided to begin publication when a thousand subscriptions had been received.

At the Western, Iowa, Board meeting, St. Joseph was declared to be the "banner branch".

## 1882

The fourth annual convention was held at Erie Chapel. The singing was "from Beulah Songs", and the annual sermon by Rev. R. P. Burton was "logical, earnest and persuasive." After the sermon, "Bro. Sickafoose, as is usual with him, lifted a collection." On motion, it was decided that clothing was to be sent to Rev. George Sickafoose so that a box might be shipped to Africa by the first of September. Total receipts for the year were \$802.00. "The report was received with praise and thanksgiving."

### 1883

The fifth convention was held at Huntington. Local societies were reported as 39, members 652, Evangelists 113, Children's Bands 13 with 175 members. Collected for all purposes, \$839.21; value of the box of clothing for Africa, \$150; subscriptions (possibly for the Evangel) \$130; total \$1,119.21. Mrs. R. P. Burton sang "The Gospel Train" twice, both times "by request", and Rev. Sickafoose "in his most happy manner" took the offering. At the convention of 1881, St. Joseph Branch had passed a resolution to request the Board of Managers to open work among the Chinese on the west coast. The matter had been presented at Western, and there the following resolution had been adopted: **RESOLVED** that we request the Trustees to open a school for the Chinese on the Pacific Coast as soon as practicable. In the meantime such a school had been found and plans had been made to take over its support and provide personnel for its maintenance. On November 15, 1882, Mrs. Sickafoose was appointed to the superintendency of the Chinese school at Portland, Oregon. At the convention, just before Rev. and Mrs. Sickafoose left for their new field of service in July, 1883, the following resolution was passed: **WHEREAS** God has called Bro. Sickafoose and his wife, our dear president, to another field of labor, and **WHEREAS** we will miss them from our midst, therefore, **RESOLVED** that as a society we feel deepest sorrow in parting from them and that we do commend them to the sympathy of Christians everywhere and that we most earnestly pray God will abundantly and continually bless them.

### 1884-1892

No records exist for these years, both secretaries' and treasurers' books being lost. A history, given by Mrs. George Sickafoose in 1903, gives the following information:

1884—Convention held at Laketon. Mrs. L. R. Keister, corresponding secretary of the Women's Missionary Association and editor of the Evangel, was present.

1885—Convention at Nappanee. Members 548, Children's Band members 228, Evangelists 106, offering for Chinese work \$229.36.

1886—**North Manchester:** Rev. Daniel Flickinger Wilberforce, native African pastor, present. Locals 32, members 476, total giving \$991.57.

The Board of Managers met at Huntington in May, 1886.

1887—**Buchanan, Michigan:** Bishop Noah Castle was present.

1888—**Poplar Grove:** Bishop Castle and Mrs. L. R. Keister gave addresses.

**1889—Huntington:** Locals 41, members 359, Life Members 53, Life Directors 7, Life Patrons 1. Mrs. Sue Richer became the first Life Patron in the branch by the payment of \$100.00.

**1890—Laketon.**

**1891—Deer Creek:** Mrs. W. S. Sage, Africa, missionary speaker.

**1892—Ligonier:** Mrs. L. R. Keister was present and Rev. J. A. Eby preached the convention sermon.

### **1893—Elkhart**

"Bro. and Sister Bell made short talks." Rev. W. N. Bell, later Bishop Bell, was a member of St. Joseph conference and the pastor at Elkhart. At this convention, Mrs. Bell was elected Second Vice President. They were the parents of Miss Alice Bell, General Secretary of the Women's Missionary Association from 1921-1945.

At this convention, Miss Kirkpatrick, missionary from China, gave an address. The minutes contained the following paragraph: "Some time was spent in general conversation, viz: 'How can we best awaken more interest in our Branch?' A number of stirring speeches were made in which quite a number of ideas and plans were suggested, but we are yet at sea as to a definite plan of action. Mrs. L. K. Miller, our beloved president of the Association, entering at this juncture, was introduced and greeted us with kind, loving words." Bishop Castle gave a "stirring speech."

Mrs. J. R. Brown, being unable to attend, sent her last report, and passed to her crowning the following month. She was the first treasurer of the branch, having served throughout the fifteen years of its existence.

Mrs. Mate Eby Horner was absent on account of illness and Mrs. Castle (wife of Bishop Castle) "read a courteous address of welcome." The Evangel report was signed by Mrs. Irene Bell and Mrs. Ellen Castle. Mrs. L. K. Miller, president of the Association, was in the convention and "read a very cheering report from East Pennsylvania Branch, which, while we rejoice with those who do rejoice, made us feel how very small our reports are for this year, and a general discussion followed in which quite a number participated with earnest remarks, the result of which was a motion to appoint a nominating committee to consider the name or names of persons suitable to act as organizer, that our branch be thoroughly evangelized." The result was the election of Mrs. Fletcher Thomas as organizer for the year.

Following the 1893 convention, the Religious Telescope carried this comment, "While all the sessions were interesting and the exercises of the most encouraging nature, there

was a spirit of depression pervading every session and St. Joseph almost felt like sitting in sackcloth and ashes. This was due to our small financial reports. From our first organization, reports have never been so small nor so discouraging. Many wept and much talking and planning was done to bring St. Joseph up to her former standard. The feeling was unanimous and was so expressed that we must do better next year. We ask every person within the conference bounds to awaken to the call and help us."

At the convention a resolution was passed "that we join hands with the White Ribbon Band and affectionately urge our sisters to engage in this battle for God and Home and against the Saloon". The first Woman's Day offering was taken in 1893, for work in China.

### 1894—North Manchester

Miss Ellen Groenendyke, a returned missionary from Africa, was in the convention, also Mrs. Sickafoose, from Portland, Oregon. She brought an address on "The Chinese on the Pacific Coast and Our Work Among Them." Mrs. Thomas reported that, because of sickness, she had been unable to do any organizing, but Mrs. Sickafoose, now returned for residence in the conference, reported organizing eight new societies. Attention was called to a quilt, made by the North Manchester local. It was offered for sale, the proceeds to be sent to Africa. Rev. I. S. Cleaver bought it for \$6.00. Forty-six delegates responded to roll call. During the year, eleven new locals had been organized, bringing the number to 38, with 420 members.

Since Rev. George Sickafoose had gone to China in 1889 and had located a mission there, it was necessary to purchase a house for the missionaries in Canton. An offering was taken for "the home in China", the amount being \$37.50.

The meeting of the Board of Managers was held in Waterloo, May 23, 1894.

### 1895—Roanoke

The seventeenth annual convention was held in the chapel of Roanoke Classical Seminary. On one evening "the service consisted of a camp-fire conducted by Mrs. Sickafoose." Rev. George Sickafoose gave a "lecture on China." Miss Ellen Schenck, a missionary to Africa, whose father later became a member of the conference, was introduced and spoke on "Our Work in Africa." A special offering was taken and Miss Schenck and Miss Ellen Groenendyke were made Life Members. The first mention of a courtesy committee is made in the minutes of this convention.

### 1896—South Whitley

Miss Ellen Groenendyke was again present to represent the Women's Missionary Association and to give the annual address. The first Plan of Work committee was appointed and it was decided to accept the report item by item. Some "spirited debate" followed the reading of some items, some items were amended, but finally the report as a whole was adopted. "Mrs. Hatfield kindly volunteered to furnish fifty or more copies of this Plan of Work to send to all local presidents as a guide for work during the coming year." "Mrs. Cleaver gladdened the hearts of all with a bequest of five hundred dollars to the Branch after which the doxology was sung and repeated." On the much debated subject of expenses to Board meeting, a motion was passed that the full quota of delegates be elected with the understanding that the branch pay the expense of one delegate and as much as possible toward the expense of the other two.

### 1897—Huntington

Mrs. C. L. Raymond "gave a kind Christian greeting." "Owing to the condition of Mrs. Sickafoose's voice a miscellaneous program was rendered" as follows: Recitation, "To Be Seen of Men" Mamie Beeching; "The Missionary Hen" Miss Summers; Duett, Misses Pearl and Dessie Currey; Declamation, "Boys of America" Roy Keeseey; Cause and Critic, Stella Hunter and others; Solo, Rev. D. B. Kessinger; Recitation, "Cicero's Call" Miriam Richer; Recitation, "The Sowers" Miss Morse. Miss Stella Hunter's "The Cause and the Critic" had first been given the previous year, when it was described in the minutes as "a unique departure from our ordinary line of work, and consisted of a conversation in which eleven ladies thoroughly discussed the oft-repeated and thread-bare excuses used by non-interested Christians for their lack of activity in Foreign Missionary Work." Mrs. Emma Myers moved that badges be prepared for the next year's branch convention. As a result, Mrs. Myers was appointed to make such badges of lavender ribbon and to sell them at five cents each. It became the task of her young daughter Lois, later Mrs. M. R. Garber, to help make and sell them at conventions for the next few years. Mrs. Sickafoose was presented an unfinished quilt which had been begun in the Huntington local in 1885 "by our Sister Brown", the first treasurer of the branch. Another quilt belonging to the Ladies' Aid of Huntington was sold at auction by Rev. D. B. Kessinger for \$7.

### 1898—Laketon

There were thirty-two delegates representing fourteen local

societies. The missionary speaker was Mrs. Lida B. West, missionary to Africa. There was a discussion on plans for raising money. "All favored the Gospel plan as the best plan—Pay first, then GIVE." Mrs. West gave an address on "The Student Volunteer Movement". Mrs. Sickafoose gave an address on China. "The Importance of Early Fixing the Habit of Giving" was discussed by various members of the convention.

#### 1899—Elkhart

"St. Joseph Branch—Its Past, Present, and Future" was given by Mrs. Sickafoose. "She gave a clear and concise review of the work done in the past, and spoke of the wonderful possibilities and opportunities of the present with our conditions and membership." Mrs. Lida B. West was again present and gave one address on "Systematic Giving" and one on Africa. "The Miles Medical Company tendered an invitation to the convention to visit the Laboratory. This was accepted and the time fixed for the visit, 1:00 to 2:00 today." This being the first year for the badges, made by Mrs. Emma Myers and sold by her daughter, Lois, "badges amounting to .75 were sold." Again Miss Stella Hunter presented one of her fine papers, "Divine Grace for Plodders". "This was so well prepared and received that the convention asked to have it read again at the evening service." The secretary noted that this twenty-first convention found the branch with a smaller membership than in earlier years "when there were fewer departments of church work, less of church debts, fewer fine church houses and comfortable parsonages. . . . Some of our locals have disbanded temporarily until frowning church debts have been cancelled but the more faithful ones send their money to the treasurer, even tho' they feel it impossible to sustain an organization."

The previous year, in May, 1898, seven United Brethren missionaries had lost their lives in an uprising in West Africa. The minutes ended with this statement: "The awful tragedy of the past year, occurring so soon after our last annual meeting, no doubt had some effect on our reports for the year. We were shocked, horror-stricken, grieved,—perhaps a little rebellious when the first awful message reached us. We were unable to go forward and so stood still and heard God speak to us as individuals. Perhaps we needed just such a lesson, who knows? And who will question, 'Why?' The future is before us, and we believe that African soil, made precious and enriched by the blood of our martyrs will, under our united efforts, blessed of God, yield a larger, richer and more abundant harvest. Africa will be redeemed!"

The report of the year follows: Locals 26; Members 399;

Evangels 136; Life Members 122; Life Directors 12; Life Patrons 3. Money collected by societies, General Fund \$399.12; China \$55.75; Native Workers \$24.26; Africa \$116.72; Industrial \$11.60; Life Members \$2.00; Contingent \$42.11; Collection \$8.46. Total for the year \$660.35.

The Board of Managers met in May, 1899, at Fort Wayne.

### 1900—Washington Center

The first nominating committee was elected and then brought in a nominating committee's report. Rev. George Sickafoose brought a report of the Ecumenical Conference which he had attended. The treasurer's report showed an anniversary offering of \$418.17, this being the twenty-fifth year since the Women's Missionary Association was organized in 1875.

Women whose names appear in the 1900 convention minutes are: Mrs. C. L. Raymond, Mrs. J. W. Hindbaugh, Mrs. Mate Horner, Mrs. Luke, Mrs. Zoe Thomas, Mrs. R. G. Upson, Mrs. C. V. Mull, Mrs. Binkley, Miss Stella Morse, Mrs. L. L. Shaffer, Mrs. Lena Caldwell, Mrs. Emma Myers, Mrs. J. C. Fretz, Mrs. L. O. Oyler, Mrs. J. A. Farmer, Mrs. Keesey, Mrs. G. F. Byrer, Mrs. Kurtz, Miss Miriam Richer (recitation), Mrs. R. P. Burton (solo) and Mrs. Landis. No missionary speaker was present.

### 1901—Bethesda

Mrs. W. M. Bell, Dayton, Ohio, gave an address, "Missionary Work in Our New Possessions." This subject was of great interest to the branch because of the fact that one of their own number, Rev. Edwin S. Eby, had recently been sent by the Mission Board to the Philippine Islands. Some of his letters were read and the following resolution was adopted: RESOLVED that we greatly enjoy and receive inspiration in the thought of sending Bro. Edwin S. Eby from our branch to the Philippine work.

Mrs. Lois Myers Garber (Mrs. M. R.) remembers that this convention was held in her home church and she gives us some interesting information about it. Since the church was in the country, delegates and visitors were met at the South Whitley railroad station with horses and buggies. Some were "surries with the fringe on top" and some did not have tops. She herself rode in a spring wagon which carried four or five people. The first session was in the evening. Since the people had to arrive some time in the afternoon, they ate supper at the homes of some of the members. Then they went to the church for the evening service and to receive their assignments of homes for lodging. The next morning the

entertaining members brought well-filled baskets of food. There was no basement under the church so for the noon and evening meals they placed a long table down the aisle of the church. Food was cooked and coffee made at a nearby home. Ministers present for the convention were: Revs. Cummins, C. H. Bell, Parrett, Oyler, Hindbaugh, Farmer, Byrer, Thomas, Robinson, Kessinger, Cleaver, Shaffer, Slusser, Simons, Spitler, and Miner. A memorial service was held for Rev. George Sickafoose.

#### 1902—Ligonier

"The Social Element in Our Meetings" was presented by Mrs. J. W. Lake, who had come into the branch during the year, when the Indiana churches belonging to Auglaize Conference were transferred, with their pastors, to St. Joseph Conference. There was a discussion of ways to interest children and youth in missions. "Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Eby and Rev. and Mrs. W. S. Gandy were asked to come forward and offer short prayers for their sons in the Philippines." Rev. Edwin S. Eby, son of Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Eby, was a missionary, while Mr. Clyde Gandy, son of Rev. and Mrs. W. S. Gandy, was a teacher in the Philippine Islands. Action was taken that each local pay \$3.00 contingent, or as nearly that amount as possible.

#### 1903—Goblesville

This convention marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of St. Joseph Branch, and its feature was a history, given by the first president of the branch, Mrs. Sickafoose. It is from this history that we have a few facts about the years 1884-1892, the secretary's book having been lost. Dr. J. W. Lake preached the conference sermon. A silver anniversary offering was taken at the convention, under the direction of Mrs. Sickafoose, the amount received being \$50. At the close of the first twenty-five years this report was given: Locals 21, Members 397, Evangelists 193, Gleaners Bands 2, Members 70, Total giving \$1177.55.

#### 1904—Calvary Church, Fort Wayne

Mrs. Clyde Gandy gave a paper, "My Experiences in the Philippines". Mention was made that five locals had used the "united mission study" during the year, and "all spoke highly of it". A discussion on "What Have We Done This Year?" was followed by "an appeal by Mrs. Richer, the president, to the locals to strive to make their meetings spiritual as well as financially successful." The Arion Quartette, made up of Revs. Pontius, Parker, Upson and Cummins, sang several times during the convention, and were given a rising vote of thanks.

### 1905—Jefferson

Mrs. A. T. Howard, formerly missionary to Africa and on her first furlough from service in Japan, addressed the convention. An offering of \$17.39 was taken for the building fund for Japan. On motion it was agreed that the branch pledge \$1,000 on "special" for the next year. The Sickafoose Quartette, composed of Rev. and Mrs. C. A. Sickafoose and their sons, Frank and Harry, sang three numbers.

### 1906—Deedsville

"The subject of organizing Home Societies was discussed by a number of the ladies and ministers. It was decided that we remain a Foreign Missionary Association." Miss Mary Murrell was the missionary speaker and presented the work in the Philippine Islands. The subject of making pledges for the coming year was discussed but pledges were not taken. A committee was appointed to ask pastors "to call the ladies of their churches together and make an effort to organize where there are no locals and enthuse the ones already organized." Four ladies were appointed to do this work, namely: Miss Ada Richer, Miss Stella Hunter, Mrs. Mate Horner and Mrs. Emma Caldwell. Three members were present who had been members since the organization of the branch, Mrs. Sue Richer, Mrs. Milan and Mrs. Ulsh. Miss Lizzie Sheets, Vermillion, Illinois, national organizer, spent the months of November, 1906, and April, 1907, in the branch and organized many new societies. She also visited already organized locals and advised and encouraged them.

### 1907—Bremen

Mrs. G. P. Macklin was present, representing the Women's Missionary Association; she stressed especially the use of missionary literature. Miss Stella Hunter was appointed to have charge of the literature table, probably the first time literature was sold at the convention. Mrs. J. L. Goshert asked all Evangel subscribers to stand and nearly all the delegates were found to be subscribers to the Evangel. Miss Lizzie Sheets was present and held a workers' conference. She reported on her work in the conference, mentioned the new locals, and spoke also of some of the older ones that were weak and discouraged and urged the strong societies to visit the weak ones near them. A committee, composed of Mrs. W. S. Gandy, Mrs. Joseph Richer, Mrs. Dan Robinson and Mrs. G. F. Byrer, was appointed to arrange the work of visiting the weak societies. The branch contingent fund was raised to 20c per member. A motion was made and supported "that we as a branch pledge \$1500 for next year and pay it."

Seven locals reported using the united study book, "Christus Liberator." The delegates to the board meeting were instructed to request uniform report blanks for use of local societies in reporting to the branch officers.

Fraternal greetings were brought by the pastor of the Evangelical Church of Bremen, Rev. Schewnuper.

#### 1908—Butler

At this convention, Mrs. Raymond "spoke of her work in literature and gave a paper explaining the object and duties of this movement." Later in the convention she was elected the first Secretary of Literature of the branch. Mrs. G. P. Macklin again represented the Association and presented a "school of methods". She urged the branch to give \$100 for a printing press in the Philippines and pledges amounting to \$103 were taken. Much of the discussion at this convention was in the interest of literature and the Reading Course. Eleven societies reported using the study book.

#### 1909—Elkhart

Mrs. H. K. (Austia Patterson) Shoemaker of Flat Rock, Ohio, spoke on "Our Work in China and How We Do It." Mrs. Shoemaker was one of the two women who accompanied Rev. George Sickafosse to China in 1889, becoming the first superintendent of the China Mission. She later married Dr. H. K. Shoemaker, also of the Mission, and they returned to America in 1904. Subscriptions were taken for a book of poems written by Mrs. L. K. Miller, who had formerly been president of the Association and editor of the Woman's Evangel. Again the work of the young women was emphasized by a paper "How to Enlist Young Women in Missions" by Miss Maude Zimmer, of Warsaw. A mission study class was conducted by Miss Stella Hunter of Erie. There were thirteen members in her class, and a card was given to each member with the name of a missionary upon it. The person was supposed to tell something about the one whose name she had. Other questions were asked on the lesson, which was on China. At this convention, Rev. E. S. Eby of the Philippine Islands was presented and "spoke a few words of encouragement of the mission work that is being done." The first mention was made of institutes when Mrs. Richer, Mrs. Raymond, Mrs. Lake and Miss Zimmer were appointed to plan for such meetings.

#### 1910—Huntington

In 1905 the Home, Frontier and Foreign Missionary Society was disbanded by General Conference and the Foreign Missionary Society and the Home Missionary Society were organ-

ized as separate bodies. Because of this change, a paper on "The Benefits of Co-operation with the Home and Foreign Societies" was prepared by Mrs. Hattie Green and Mrs. Emma Caldwell, both of Ligonier. The paper was discussed by Mrs. C. M. Gandy and Rev. G. F. Byrer. The following resolution was adopted: RESOLVED that since we endorse the co-operation of the Home and Foreign Missionary Societies, we will use our best endeavors to advance God's Kingdom in both Home and Foreign Fields.

Mrs. Mary R. Alberts, editor of the Women's Evangel, was the representative from the Association. Besides discussing "Our Work for Home Missions", she gave an address on "The Evangelization of the World in This Generation."

Up to this time, the names of children and young women were on the rolls of local societies and there was a growing feeling that more attention should be given to organizing separate organizations for them. Miss Oma Flora gave a discussion of "The Relation of the Local to the Young Women's and Children's Bands."

Rev. J. L. Goshert was asked to sell some quilts that had been donated by Mrs. Fannie Dill of Fulton. He succeeded in selling them for \$3.40 each.

For the first time, the treasurer reported funds for Home Missions, in the amount of \$61.10. Twenty-two local societies reported holding study classes.

### 1911—Ligonier

A discussion on a contest for Evangel subscriptions resulted in a decision to award a banner to the local having the most new subscriptions during the year. "It was voted that a lady from each district be appointed to confer with the Presiding Elder on that district to see what could be done in organizing new locals." The following ladies were appointed: Fort Wayne District, Mrs. C. L. Raymond; Lafayette District, Mrs. Maggie McFarland; Elkhart District, Mrs. J. W. Lake. The annual address was given by Mrs. E. J. Pace, recently returned from the Philippines. The banners were presented by Mrs. R. F. Barnes of Huntington. Warsaw local received the one for the most new Evangelists and Fort Wayne local, for the most new members. Mrs. B. F. Thomas of Warsaw "took some time in asking what each one was most interested in, in the work." Invitations for institutes to be held during the year were given by Butler and Rich Valley. These were the first institutes ever held in the branch. It was taken by consent that the president, Mrs. Fretz, have charge of the institute work in the branch. Mrs. E. F. Light, of

Edwardsburg, Michigan, the first secretary and the second president of the branch, was present and spoke briefly.

### 1912—Peru

An address was given by Rev. J. A. Groves, Presiding Elder, on "The Needs of the Home Field and How to Supply Them." Miss Amanda Huffman, first branch superintendent of Junior work, prepared her report, but, in her absence it was read by Miss Margaret Fretz, of Deedsville. Miss Geneva Harper, Secretary of Young Women's Work in the Association, gave a "School of Missions" on Junior work which was very instructive. She also presented a "School of Missions" on Young Women's Work, her outline being: Organization, Problems of the Young Women's Missionary Society, and Relationship of the Local to the Young Women. A "Workers' Tea" was a feature of the convention program. Probably due to the new emphasis on Home Missions, one of the speakers at the convention was Miss Mellie Perkins, a deaconess at Wagon Mound, New Mexico, and the first missionary to the New Mexico Home Mission Field. Another speaker was Miss Belle Myers of Siu Lam, China, who "by her happy manner and her love for her work made us feel that missionary work there is a pleasure and not a duty." The first mention of a communion service at a branch convention was made in the 1912 minutes, also the first mention of Good Friday as a Day of Prayer for missions. Three institutes were planned and "more if required to cover the territory of the conference". It was decided that the minutes of the convention be printed and distributed to the local societies. A memorial service was conducted by Mrs. Richer for Mrs. George Sickafoose who had died during the year. Action was taken to assume the support of the deaconess (Miss Matilda Weber) in the Philippines as a special project the coming year. Action was also taken that the president, Mrs. Lake, and Mrs. Lois Garber, secretary of Young Women's Societies, form an itinerary with the view of organizing young women's societies, and that Miss Harper's services be requested for such meetings. However, before the itinerary was entirely planned, Miss Harper was succeeded by Miss Vera Blinn who spent the month of July, 1912, in the branch, strengthening the three Young Women's Societies, Fort Wayne, Kokomo and Bethesda, and organizing ten new ones, Bremen, Elkhart, Frankfort, Grass Creek, Laketon, Ligonier, Nappanee, Warsaw, Lafayette and one not named, probably Tyner. At the meeting of the Board of Managers, 1912, the name of the Young Women's Department was changed to the Otterbein Guild.

### 1913—Castle Church, Elkhart

Missionary speakers at this convention were Rev. and Mrs. F. A. Risley. They were living in Goshen where Rev. Risley had been teaching during his furlough, following his first term in Africa. Mrs. Risley was under appointment and they were due to sail for Africa in June. A pageant "A Living Dream" was presented by the Young Women's Societies of the branch. Dr. J. S. Kendall, representing the Home Mission Board, gave an address; also Miss Vera Blinn. Mrs. R. P. Burton and Mrs. S. J. Light, former branch officers, were present and spoke words of encouragement. It was decided to hold six institutes and to appoint one member of the executive committee to be responsible for each institute. Each local and young women's society was asked to send at least two delegates to the place most convenient. The first free literature fund was taken during the year, and was to be 1c a member. It was recommended that a Parliamentary Drill be given quarterly in each local society. Mrs. C. H. Piatt was elected Secretary of Literature, but she resigned at the convention and Mrs. Urban Dietrich was elected to the office.

### 1914—Bremen

Miss Vera Blinn was again present, bringing addresses on "The King's Business—Its Magnitude and Urgency" and "The Unlimited Resources of the King's Army." She announced that St. Joseph was "one of the banner branches last year." Miss Belle Elder, a member of White River Branch, attended the convention and was elected secretary of Otterbein Guilds. A vote of thanks was given Mrs. Pyle for making the Otterbein Guild pennants; Mrs. Pyle made the pennants for many years. Mrs. A. T. Howard was presented and brought an address on Japan, "and gave us the bright side of life in that mission field". Action was taken that the Committee on Plan of Work be a standing committee, each member to be responsible for one district. The Plan of Work was to be printed for the first time and there were also to be printed letterheads. Institutes were to be planned jointly by the executive committee and the Conference Home and Foreign Mission committees. Mrs. Fred Pyle of Elkhart was elected the first Branch Secretary of Thank-offering.

### 1915—Warsaw

Prof. D. E. Weidler, Principal of Albert Academy, West Africa, and Miss Elsie Hall, field worker for the Association, were guest speakers. The secretary recorded that an address by Miss Hall, "Christ for All of Life", was "one of the very best and most stirring missionary addresses ever delivered

to St. Joseph Conference Branch." A forum period, "The Best Things in My Local Society", was very interesting. The members of the Otterbein Guild "marched in" and had charge of an afternoon session, this being the first of the annual Guild processions. Miss Belle Elder gave an address, "The New Vision for Our St. Joseph Otterbein Guilds." Miss Elder was named to do field work in the branch during the year, especially in the interest of the Guilds.

### 1916—Kokomo

"Progressive Conferences" were a feature of the program, there being five groups with the branch officers moving from group to group. "Each was allowed seven minutes and at the close of the conference, was a fifteen minute intermission which was enjoyed socially." Missionary speakers were Miss Mabel Drury, China, Rev. E. M. Hursh, Africa, and Miss Ella Shanklin, formerly a missionary to Africa, residing at Waterloo, Indiana. The branch was divided into nine districts, with a chairman of each district.

### 1917—Huntington

Bishop A. T. Howard, missionary bishop, formerly missionary to Africa and Japan, addressed the convention. Mrs. S. S. Hough was also present and gave stereopticon views of the different mission fields. Following an address, she was presented a beautiful bouquet as was also the branch president, Mrs. Lake, gifts from the Huntington society. After an evening service, "a reception and social hour in charge of the Huntington local and Otterbein Guild was enjoyed by all." An address "Work in the Northwest" was delivered by Rev. W. T. Kessinger, a member of the conference. Departmental conferences were conducted by branch officers. The effect of the war was felt for "reports of officers were not printed this year owing to the high cost of paper and printing." A letter was read by Mrs. Richer from her niece, Mrs. Kathryn Richer McLeod, of Ningpo, China.

### 1918—Ligonier

Mrs. J. Hal Smith, returned missionary from Africa, was present for the first of many visits to St. Joseph's conventions. Miss Dora Housekeeper represented the Association. Miss Blanche Groves sang a solo and "little Alice Vance" sang, "Little Jewels." The Ligonier Guild presented a play, "Pilgrims on the King's Highway." The branch was divided into groups, each with a leader as follows:

South District—Huntington, Mrs. C. J. Miner; Peru, Miss Oma Flora; Frankfort, Mrs. Julia Humes. North District—

Elkhart, Mrs. Ada Dietrich; Waterloo, Mrs. G. N. Lake; Warsaw, Mrs. Amy Yenner.

In September, 1918, Mrs. Bessie Hays resigned as Second Vice President and Mrs. A. E. Grubbs was appointed to fill the unexpired term. Mrs. Frank Patton, Warsaw, and Mrs. J. V. Wiesman, Kokomo, were appointed to attend the Winona School of Missions. For several years the branch sent delegates each summer to this missionary training school, including Mrs. L. F. Gerber, Mrs. C. J. Miner, Mrs. C. J. Roberts, Mrs. Arthur Ridenour, Mrs. George Compton, Mrs. H. V. Cole, Mrs. C. C. Yund, Mrs. Frank Sanders and Mrs. F. A. Risley.

#### 1919—Frankfort

Rev. E. M. Hursh from Africa, Mrs. S. S. Hough, representing the Association, Mrs. E. M. Emory, Africa, and Dr. P. M. Camp, General Secretary of the Home Missions Board, were the convention speakers. A symposium, "How I Became Interested in Missions", proved very interesting to everyone. Names appearing on the 1919 program include: Mrs. C. H. Piatt, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Wiesman, Mrs. W. E. Snyder, Mrs. H. A. Keller, Mrs. Ada Fulton, Mrs. James Slocum, and Miss Anna Mae Humes. A memorial fund of \$20 was voted placed in an "equipment fund for the Siu Lam church". This fund, by the end of the year, had become \$437.00. Mrs. Kathryn Richer McLeod was introduced and spoke briefly. The first "Efficiency Chart" was presented and societies meeting all its "points" were awarded pennants. The Association Standard was also used as the basis of an award, the society meeting its requirements being awarded a silk flag of one of the countries in which the denomination had established missions.

#### 1920—South Bend

Miss Lydia B. Wiggim, Educational Secretary of the Home Mission Board, gave a stereopticon lecture on "Home Mission Work". Other guest speakers were: Mrs. A. T. Howard; Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Embree, of Freetown, West Africa; and Miss Bertha Wohlheiter, of Alcalde, New Mexico. It was voted that the special fund for the year "go for a new printing press in the Philippine Islands". Rev. E. J. Pace, missionary to the Philippine Islands, spoke and explained the need for Christian literature in the Philippines. On behalf of the convention, Mrs. G. R. Champlin presented Miss Wohlheiter a purse with which to purchase a Bible for her own use, Miss Wohlheiter being "our missionary in New Mexico". One evening's session was designated as "Otterbein Guild Night", the custom being followed every year, thereafter.

### 1921—Calvary, Fort Wayne

Mrs. C. L. Raymond presided in the absence of the president, Mrs. Lake, who was absent because of the illness of her husband. Missionary speakers were: Mrs. I. E. Doty and Miss Matilda Weber of the Philippines and Rev. and Mrs. F. A. Risley of Sierra Leone, West Africa. Miss Elsie Hall represented the Association staff. An address was given by Mr. David Manley, African student at Indiana Central College, after which an offering of \$67.40 was presented to him. Mrs. W. M. Bell was in the convention and was gladly received. Mrs. Bell had formerly been an officer of the branch, and her daughter, Alice, was the newly elected General Secretary of the Association. The total special fund for the printing press in the Philippines reached the amount of \$202.45. It was decided to have county institutes during the fall of 1921. There were 175 registered delegates and visitors at the convention.

### 1922—Lafayette

This convention was a significant one, as the Women's Missionary Association was observing its Golden Jubilee Year, and each branch was holding a Jubilee convention. On May 24, 25, in Dayton, Ohio, was to be held the great Jubilee meeting, to commemorate the organization of the Association in that city on October 21 and 22, 1875. Mrs. Joseph Richer and Mrs. I. S. Cleaver were chosen to represent St. Joseph Branch at the Jubilee gathering in Dayton. A feature of the Golden Jubilee observance was a Book of Remembrance which was to contain names of pioneers, missionaries, or any others who would make a gift of \$50 to the Jubilee Fund. St. Joseph's quota of sixty names was exceeded by thirteen. The Book of Remembrance was to be kept in the historical rooms at Bonebrake Seminary. The branch took action to place the name of its first president, Mrs. George Sickafoose, in the book, and also the names of Rev. G. T. Rosselot and Rev. Floyd Roberts, who were serving as missionaries in Africa and Japan, respectively, and who were members of St. Joseph Conference. The convention programs were on gold colored paper, with gold lettered purple covers. They were a gift to the convention from Mr. Charles Raymond, husband of the branch president. Some historical data was contained in the programs as well as the words of the Jubilee songs. Mrs. C. J. Miner, Mrs. R. F. Barnes and Mrs. H. A. Keller served as the Jubilee committee. Missionary speakers at the convention were: Rev. and Mrs. Warren H. Hayes, Japan, Miss Bertha Wohlheiter, New Mexico, Rev. E. M. Hursh, Africa, and Mrs. B. F. Bean, China. Mrs. Bean's husband was

serving a pastorate at Montmorenci, following years of missionary service in China. Miss Edith Gilbert (later, Mrs. E. S. Kern), editor of the Evangel, conducted the Methods Hours. It was at this convention that Miss Bertha Rager, later Mrs. Charles Leader, a member of the branch, offered her life for missionary service, she and her husband later serving in Africa. Several pioneers of the branch, including Mrs. Joseph Richer, Mrs. Martha Cleaver, and Mrs. Julia Brandt, spoke. A feature of the Golden Jubilee convention was a pageant, "Lighted to Lighten," which depicted the history of the Association, and presented a challenge to further effort. It was given by a group of Lafayette women and girls. The Jubilee offering was \$2,768.40.

#### 1923—Fulton

Guest speakers were Rev. G. T. Rosselot, a member of the conference and a missionary to Africa, Miss Florence Clippingier, Women's Missionary Association field worker, and Mrs. B. F. Bean, formerly of China. Each local society received a badge, showing the number of efficiency points it had attained. The memorial offering of \$70 was designated for work in Alcalde, New Mexico. Rev. M. S. Livengood, president of the conference C.E., announced the Christian Endeavor convention to be held at Oakwood Park, Lake Wawasee in July.

A report of the Annville, Pennsylvania, meeting of the Board of Managers, held the previous fall, was given by Miss Bertha Rager and Mrs. L. F. Gerber.

#### 1924—Castle Church, Elkhart

Mrs. J. Hal Smith, Special Support Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, and Miss Mary Brawner, of Velarde, New Mexico, were in the convention and gave addresses. For several years, a special memorial offering had been taken at each convention and designated for some special project. At this convention it was decided to take the support of a missionary, such a project to be known as the "Living Link." Mrs. B. F. Shively was chosen to be the first Living Link, her salary being \$625. When it was found that the cash and pledges were almost twice that amount, it was decided to assume also a major share in the support of Rev. G. T. Rosselot, West Africa. Amid great rejoicing, further cash offerings and pledges were taken, the total amount received being \$1305.67. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond presented pictures of the Shively family, to be made available for general distribution throughout the branch. Mrs. J. Hal Smith, with her enthusiasm and her challenging messages, gave great impetus to the new project and it was largely due to her presence that the Living Link was inaugurated and became a continuing part of the program of the

branch in the following years. Miss Alice Bell, General Secretary of the Association, and Rev. C. W. Shoop, China, were also present and gave addresses. Mrs. E. S. Eby and Mrs. I. S. Cleaver, both pioneers and both residents of Elkhart, spoke words of greeting. Mrs. L. O. Oyler was presented twenty roses upon her retirement after twenty years as branch treasurer.

#### 1925—Brook

Mrs. J. Hal Smith represented the Foreign Mission Board, Mrs. S. S. Hough, the Association, and Miss Lela Gipson, of Harford School, West Africa, was the missionary speaker. Mr. C. L. Raymond spoke on "Men's Responsibility in Promoting Missions in Local Churches." Mrs. Sue Richer, pioneer, was introduced and "gave us some very encouraging words, also telling us that she had been a member of the branch since its organization." It was decided to continue the two Living Links, Mrs. Shively's support and a major share in Rev. G. T. Rosselot's support.

At an executive committee meeting at Lake Winona during annual conference, the resignation of Mrs. G. F. Byrer, as secretary of the branch was accepted with regret, Mrs. Byrer having served for twenty-five and a half years. Mrs. S. F. Eberhart was appointed to finish out the year.

#### 1926—Roanoke

Mrs. Blanche Groves Huffman was in charge of the music. This was the first of many times she performed this service for branch conventions. Mrs. J. Hal Smith, Miss Janet Gilbert, and Miss May Dick, China, were guest speakers. Mrs. G. F. Byrer was given recognition for her long years of service as branch secretary. Mrs. Sue Richer, Mrs. I. S. Cleaver and Mrs. Emma Myers, pioneers, were presented. Since the year 1926-1927 had been designated as "Girls' Year", the Otterbein Guild girls had charge of an afternoon session with Miss Janet Gilbert bringing the address, and with special music and short talks by Guild girls. There were 116 Guild girls at the banquet. Mrs. H. V. Cole, formerly missionary to New Mexico, and Rev. G. T. Rosselot, Africa, brought missionary messages.

#### 1927—Frankfort

Mrs. J. Hal Smith was again present. Mrs. F. A. Risley, now living within the branch, gave an address, "Extending the Kingdom in Africa." Mrs. Alonzo Nicodemus gave a talk on hymns and Rev. Alonzo Nicodemus led in the singing of the hymns as they were mentioned. Mrs. C. L. Raymond told of the trip which she and Mr. Raymond had made during the year. This trip had included visits to Palestine and the Pas-

sion Play at Oberammergau. Dr. Russel Showers, representing the Home Mission Board, gave an address. The Otterbein Guild girls presented Miss Grace Roberts a gift, upon her retirement and in appreciation of her work as branch secretary of Otterbein Guilds. In preparation for "Golden Jubilee Year", marking the fiftieth anniversary of the organizing of St. Joseph Branch, it was decided to launch a campaign for fifty life members, fifty life directors and fifty life patrons.

#### 1928—South Wayne Church, Fort Wayne

The Jubilee convention was an outstanding one, with special anniversary features. The programs, with purple covers and gold lettering, contained pictures of Mrs. L. R. Harford, National Honorary President, Mrs. S. S. Hough, National President, and the presidents of St. Joseph Branch, along with other historical data. They were a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond. Rev. and Mrs. H. W. Widdoes, pioneer missionaries to the Philippine Islands, were present, also Mrs. S. S. Hough and Mrs. J. Hal Smith. A banquet was held, with Mrs. C. J. Roberts as toastmistress. At the "Jubilee Session", Mrs. Raymond gave a history of the first fifty years of the branch. The Jubilee offering amounted to \$500 and was designated for Albuquerque, New Mexico. Pioneers present were: Mrs. Richer, Mrs. Fretz, Mrs. Julia Brandt, and Mrs. I. J. Cleaver. Officers having served more than ten years were honored as follows: Mrs. Byrer, Mrs. Oyler, and Mrs. L. F. Gerber. Mrs. M. R. Garber gave a tribute to her mother, Mrs. Emma Myers, who was unable to be present. Registrations, 375, ministers present, 58.

#### 1929—South Bend

Miss Janet Gilbert presented the methods periods and addresses, "Christ's Call and Our Answer", "God on a Wooing Errand", and "Deep Sea Fishing". Miss Lela Gipson of Africa gave addresses on her work as a teacher in Harford School for Girls at Moyamba, West Africa.

#### 1930—Plymouth

Workers from the Association who were in the convention were Mrs. W. H. Mumma, formerly a missionary to the Philippines and now National Secretary of Stewardship, and Miss Anna Helen Mason (later Mrs. Maneval), Field Worker. Miss Bertha Wohlheiter, the branch Secretary of Stewardship, gave an address on New Mexico. Rev. and Mrs. Alva Sholty, formerly missionaries to Japan and now in the conference, Rev. Sholty being pastor of the Pleasant Lake church, spoke briefly. An address, "A Warless World", was given by Mrs. Fred Ahlfeld, who, as Belle Elder, was Secretary of Otterbein

Guilds from 1914 to 1919. Dr. C. W. Shoop brought a challenging message on our present opportunity in China. Mrs. M. R. Garber had charge of the music during the convention. Mrs. Risley gave an address, "What It Means to Know God in Africa". The Living Link designation of a major share in the support of Rev. G. T. Rosselot, was changed to a major share in the support of the Harford School for Girls at Moyamba, Sierra Leone, West Africa. The first Otterbein Guild Camp was held at Camp Alexander Mack, on Lake Wawbee, August 29, 30 and 31, 1930.

### 1931—Calvary Church, Fort Wayne

Rev. G. T. Rosselot, missionary to Africa, spoke on "A Voice from Africa". Mrs. A. H. Sholty, returned from Japan, gave an address, "That They All May Be One". Mrs. J. Hal Smith conducted the worship services, while Miss Alice Bell brought the methods hours. Rev. Mrs. Celia A. Pellett paid tribute to Mrs. Belle Elder Ahlfeld who had departed this life during the past year, also Mrs. M. R. Garber spoke in memory of her mother, Mrs. Emma Myers. Miss Lulu Clippinger told of her work in New Mexico. Sixty-eight ministers were introduced to the convention. A request was made for a worker from the Association office for the fall rallies. Previous to this time, the delegates to the Winona School of Missions had attended the fall institutes and had given methods of presenting the study books as well as other working methods for local societies. Miss Alice Bell was the Institute worker in October 1931. Following the 1931 convention, the bank in which the branch funds were deposited was closed and \$1148.70, in Living Link funds, was frozen. Mrs. Lake took money from the branch contingent fund, as she could, to repay the Living Link fund. Two small amounts were received in the next few years and finally, in 1951, the balance was received by the branch treasurer and the account was closed.

### 1932—Hammond

Owing to the fact that the congregation at Hammond was worshipping in a small basement unit, looking forward to building a new church, they secured the use of the Christian Tabernacle for the convention. Mrs. J. Hal Smith brought the devotional addresses, while Miss Janet Gilbert represented the Association. Dr. and Mrs. B. F. Shively gave addresses on Japan, one being an illustrated lecture by Dr. Shively, while Mrs. Shively spoke on kindergarten work in Japan. Upon retiring after fifteen years of faithful service as Secre-

tary of Literature, Mrs. L. F. Gerber was given recognition and a gift from the branch officers. In spite of the small membership of the Hammond Church and the lack of facilities for entertaining such a large convention, the local church had things well in hand. The community opened its homes for lodging and the Hammond local society secured the service of a caterer who provided excellent meals for the visitors. There were 318 registrations. Miss Janet Gilbert, National Secretary of Otterbein Guilds and Mrs. C. C. Yund attended the fall institutes. The districting of the branch was changed from county groupings to correspond with the conference groupings, and thirteen districts were formed, each with a director.

### 1933—Columbia City

The meeting of the Board of Managers the preceding fall had included a "Girls' Congress". Echoes from this meeting were brought to the 1933 convention by Miss Ethel Smith, Guild Secretary, and Laverne Miller, Esther Phleiderer, and Margaret Edgington. Miss Edgington gave an address, "Fifty Years of Sharing." A pageant, "The Challenge of the Cross", was given by the Bethesda chapter. Dr. Regina Bigler, in this country on furlough after forty-one years of service as a medical missionary in China, was in the convention before returning to China for her last term of service. (Dr. Bigler died in China in 1937.) Miss Alice Bell presented the methods periods, and Mrs. J. Hal Smith conducted the worship services. Rev. and Mrs. Charles Leader were the missionary speakers, this being Mrs. Leader's first visit in her home conference since she went to Africa in 1925. A letter of greeting was read from Miss Ellen Groenendyke who was in St. Joseph branch convention in 1894 and 1896 as a former missionary to Africa and as a representative of the Association. Gifts were presented to Mrs. C. J. Roberts, who was retiring as Secretary of Stewardship and to Mrs. C. L. Raymond who was retiring after twenty-five years of service as a branch officer. Registrations at the convention, 346. The fall institute speaker was Rev. Walter Schutz, missionary to West Africa.

### 1934—Plymouth

Miss Janet Gilbert represented the Association, Mrs. J. Hal Smith brought the devotional periods, and missionary speakers were Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Witmer, of the Philippines, and Rev. Walter Schutz, West Africa. Announcement was made of the passing of Mrs. J. C. Fretz, branch president, 1906-1910, and words of appreciation were spoken for her work in the earlier days of the branch. At this convention,

cards were used for registration. Miss Alice Bell attended the 1934 Institutes.

### 1935—Frankfort

Speakers for the convention were Mrs. J. Hal Smith, who gave the devotional addresses, Mrs. Helen Cole Young, who spoke on Africa, and Miss Mary McLanachan, who represented the Association and presented methods. Mrs. Richer was introduced and she, in turn, presented another pioneer, Mrs. Julia Brandt, of Frankfort, then in her ninetieth year. Mrs. D. W. Zartman, also of Frankfort, told about the first St. Joseph branch convention she attended almost fifty years ago at Huntington. On Guild night, there was an impressive processional by the Guild Girls, wearing black robes and carrying lighted candles trimmed with the Guild colors, purple and white. Mrs. Raymond brought greetings from the Board of Trustees, to which she had been elected in 1929. Fifty-three ministers were introduced to the convention. Action was taken that, instead of a camp, there would be an Otterbein Guild picnic in each district and four institutes for girls in various parts of the branch. The executive committee recommended to the Plan of Work committee the giving of an award at the fall institutes to any local or chapter having all officers present. This award was offered every year after 1935. Mrs. F. A. Risley attended the Winona School of Missions and brought the methods at the fall institutes, while Dr. C. W. Shoop, China, was the missionary speaker.

### 1936—Brook

Miss Matilda Weber, Editor of the Evangel, represented the Association, and Rev. and Mrs. G. T. Rosselot spoke on their work in Africa; Bishop I. D. Warner gave a series of devotional addresses. Mr. C. L. Raymond spoke on "The Layman's Forward Movement", and Dr. B. H. Cain, Conference Superintendent, gave an address on "The Relation of the W.M.A. to the Local Church." The minutes of the convention mentioned that Mrs. Burl Heck, Living Link Secretary, "sold pictures for the Living Link fund." For several years, Mrs. Shively sent lovely pictures, stationery and dainty paper napkins. These were sold at conventions and elsewhere and created much interest in the Living Link project as well as netting a good sum for the Living Link fund. Mrs. R. J. Hudelson, president of the Indiana Council of Federated Church Women, was present and spoke about this new organization in the state. The 1936 institutes had as their speakers, Mrs. F. A. Risley and Rev. C. W. Leader.

### 1937—Elkhart

Miss Nora Vesper, Africa, attended the convention and told of the leper colony, a new project in which the women and girls of the branch had become interested. Miss Janet Gilbert presented methods for the Association, and Dr. V. O. Weidler, of the Home Mission Board, addressed the convention on "The Christian Church Effective Through Home Missions". Mrs. Weidler was introduced and stated that it had been twenty years since, as Miss Dora Housekeeper, Association Field Worker, she had attended a St. Joseph branch convention. Mrs. Huffman sang "I Must Needs Go Home By the Way of the Cross" while Mrs. L. R. Erny made a chalk drawing. It was announced that Mrs. J. Hal Smith was ill and greetings were sent to her. Congratulations were sent to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Richer upon the occasion of their sixtieth wedding anniversary. Mrs. R. P. Burton, who had passed away during the year, was mentioned for her faithful service as branch secretary and treasurer, and her family was sent a card of sympathy. Reports were mimeographed for the first time and the "Lavender Book", containing all reports including the Plan of Work, became a familiar and valuable asset of the branch, being prepared and distributed from 1937 to 1951. There were more than 315 girls and their guests at the Guild banquet, and a total registration at the convention of 673.

At the 1937 meeting of the Board of Managers, the name of the Otterbein Guild "Patroness" was changed to Otterbein Guild "Counselor". The fall institutes were held jointly with the conference groups, with Miss Alice Bell, General Secretary of the Women's Missionary Association, as institute speaker.

### 1938—Plymouth

This being the sixtieth anniversary of the organization of St. Joseph branch, the convention had some interesting historical features. The first afternoon was designated as the anniversary session, the opening prayer being offered by Mrs. J. W. Lake, president 1911-22. Mrs. O. M. Huffman of Logansport sang a solo, "Faith of Our Mothers". Mrs. C. L. Raymond, president 1922-1933, gave a history of St. Joseph branch. Because of illness, Mrs. Joseph Richer, president 1893-1906 and 1910-1911, was unable to be present. Greetings from Mrs. Richer were brought by her niece, Mrs. Laura Miller of Erie, and the convention voted to send greetings to Mrs. Richer. Miss Olive Black, representing the Otterbein Guild, spoke on the subject, "Answering the Challenge of Sixty Years". Prayer was offered by Mrs. O. E. Hill, whose

mother, Mrs. J. C. Fretz, was branch president, 1906-1910. Mrs. L. O. Oyler, branch treasurer for twenty years, led a devotional period. Greetings were sent to pioneer workers, Mrs. Cora Irwin, of Frankfort, and Mrs. J. L. Parks of Glendale, California, former secretary. Mrs. Dan Robinson and Mrs. D. W. Zartman offered prayers. Miss Matilda Weber, Editor of the Evangel, and founder of the Bible Training School for Girls, San Fernando, Philippine Islands, was in the convention and offered practical and usable methods. Miss Mary McKenzie, one of the Living Links of the branch and a teacher at Harford School for Girls, Moyamba, West Africa, spoke on her work. She presented to the branch, a gavel, hand-made from African wood. Miss Myrtle Lefever, teacher in Miller Seminary, China, gave two addresses. A separate session was held one afternoon in a nearby church for the Otterbein Guild girls. Miss McKenzie spoke, and Miss Weber gave Guild methods. Miss Lefever, in Chinese dress, told of Miller Seminary. The Otterbein Guild dinner that evening was attended by about two hundred girls. There were 409 registrations for the convention.

Miss Naomi Wilson attended the fall institutes, this being the second year these institutes were held jointly with the conference groups. For the first time, packets were prepared for "key women", in churches having no missionary organizations. Miss Alice Bell visited the mission in Africa during the year, and attended the fall institutes where she gave the methods and spoke on her trip, giving a first-hand account of the work being done in Africa.

### 1939—South Wayne Church, Fort Wayne

Mrs. S. S. Hough, national president of the Women's Missionary Association, brought messages on the year's theme, "Thy Kingdom Victorious." Miss Alice Bell brought the methods periods. Dr. J. Edgar Knipp gave an address on the Madras Conference from which he had just returned. A Stewardship Poster Contest was won by the Warsaw chapter. Dr. Knipp spoke on "The Japanese Church and the Present Crisis." The Otterbein Guild dinner was attended by two-hundred and eighty girls and their Counselors. Announcement was made that for 1939-1940 had been designated as Girls' Year with the theme, "Growing Toward the Ideal, Christian Living and a Christ-like World." At an executive committee meeting held at Winona Lake during the annual conference, Mrs. J. W. Lake resigned as treasurer, after serving as a branch officer in Auglaize and St. Joseph branches for a total of forty-two years. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Lake had gone to live with her daughter in Westerville, Ohio.

Mrs. A. B. Holmes, formerly Miss Bertha Wohlheiter, was elected to fill the unexpired term as treasurer. For several years, the women of the conference had held a meeting one afternoon during annual conference. This was usually held on the hillside at Winona Lake, and often the missionary who had been secured to address the conference at the W.M.A. session was also the hillside speaker. In 1939 it was decided not to have a separate session at conference but to ask for time in the regular sessions to present the work of the branch. This request was granted by the conference and from 1939 until the merger, the branch president gave her report at an annual conference session. Institute speakers in the fall of 1939 were Dr. Mabel Silver of Africa, and Miss Matilda Weber, who represented the Association and gave methods suggestions.

#### 1940—Hammond

The theme of the convention was "I Have a Stewardship" and Mrs. J. Hal Smith gave addresses on the theme. The convention was held in the new Hammond church with Rev. and Mrs. Alva Knoll, missionaries to the Philippine Islands, as speakers, and Miss Mary McLanachan representing the Association. Miss Lulu D. Erwin, Chicago, told of the work of the American Mission to Lepers. The Gary chapter won the Stewardship Poster Contest. Greetings were sent to Mrs. Joseph Richer and Mrs. C. L. Raymond, former branch presidents, who were unable to be present. Action was taken to send the Evangel to pastors serving their first charges in the conference. This custom was followed until the time of the merger. Speaker at the fall institutes was Mrs. B. F. Shively, with a branch officer presenting methods at each institute.

#### 1941—Calvary Church, Fort Wayne

Music was in charge of Mrs. O. M. Huffman, who sang several solos. Mrs. Melvin Lew brought greetings from the Women's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Church, with which the United Brethren Church was contemplating a union in the near future. Miss Ethel King, missionary nurse, brought interesting information about her work "in the hills of old Kentucky." Miss Janet Gilbert conducted the methods periods and the vesper hours, while Mrs. G. T. Rosselot conducted the worship services. Rev. Antollin Castillo, a Puerto Rican pastor, brought a message from that mission field. Rev. Floyd L. Roberts, missionary to Japan and brother of the president, Mrs. Yund, gave an address on the theme of the convention, "Faith." The Otterbein Guild dinner was well attended and was especially interesting, several girls talking about their hobbies, and Miss Gilbert giving an address,

"Missions—My Hobby." Two advance projects were taken for the next quadrennium by the Association, and they were given special promotion at the 1941 convention. These were a new health center in New Mexico and work in Mountain Province, Philippine Islands. On behalf of the branch, Mrs. Frank Sanders presented a gift to Mrs. Ada Bailey upon her retirement after thirteen years as Thank-offering Secretary of the branch. The fall institute speaker was Rev. E. B. Ward, veteran missionary to China. Miss Mary McLanachan presented methods, and Rev. M. E. Reed told of the work at Gary, a home mission church, of which he was pastor. Dr. B. H. Cain gave a presentation, "Balancing the Budget." Since Dr. and Mrs. Shively had returned for residence in this country because of the war, and because Dr. Shively had taken a pastorate, action was taken to change the designation of the Living Link from the support of Mrs. Shively to a \$700 share in the West China Mission, this being a new project undertaken because of the moving of the Chinese from the coast of China into the interior.

During the year, Mrs. Joseph Richer had passed to her crowning. Remembered as Aunt Sue by many, she was a real pioneer, traveling with her husband by horse and buggy all over the conference, organizing and encouraging missionary societies. She served as branch president at two different times, 1893-1906 and 1910-1911. The name of Mrs. Richer is an honored one in the history of St. Joseph branch.

### 1942—Kokomo

Because of food rationing and the difficulty of obtaining food for serving meals, for the first time in the history of the branch, no meals were served by the host church. The eating places of Kokomo cooperated and everyone found adequate eating facilities. Attention was called to the fact that the branch convention was held in Kokomo in 1916, and nineteen indicated that they attended that convention. Mrs. L. S. Stine was in charge of the music and Mrs. L. O. Oyler led in the opening prayer. Miss Alice Bell represented the Association and Dr. and Mrs. Shively were present. Dr. Shively addressing the convention on "What Is the Future of the Work in Japan?" Devotions were led one morning by Miss Arabelle Enyart, of Fulton. Rev. I. E. Oberholtzer, pastor of the Church of the Brethren of Kokomo and former missionary to China, spoke on "Missions in the Present Crisis in China." Dr. S. G. Ziegler, Foreign Mission Secretary, gave an address, "From East to West China." One feature of the convention was a symposium "Now More Than Ever," by several missionaries and former missionaries, as follows: "Now More Than Ever

—We Must Pray," Rev and Mrs. G. T. Rosselot; "We Must Be Informed," Mrs. F. A. Risley; "We Must Give," Rev. and Mrs. I. E. Oberholtzer; "We Must Keep Alive the Fellowship of Christians," Rev. and Mrs. A. H. Sholty; "We Must Have Faith," Dr. and Mrs. B. F. Shively. Mrs. M. R. Garber was given recognition on her retirement as an officer of the branch after nineteen years of service, having been Secretary of Otterbein Guild, 1911-1914, and Vice President, 1926-1942. A feature of the convention was "interest groups" rather than the officers' group meetings which had been a part of the annual conventions for several years. \$150 was voted for China Relief, the money to be sent to Miss Gladys Ward in China. Institute workers were Mrs. Walter Schutz, Africa, the first week and Miss McKenzie, Africa, the second week, and Miss Ruth Miller, newly elected Secretary of Otterbein Guilds, who attended all the institutes and presented the methods periods.

#### 1943—Huntington

The music was in charge of Mrs. S. A. Wells, and Mrs. E. M. Cornelius was organist. Miss Rachel M. Brant, Director of Children's Work, of Dayton, Ohio, brought the devotional messages and presented methods. Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Shoop were the missionary speakers, and brought first-hand information from China, using the subjects, "China Calling All Americans" and "The Chinese Christian Church Calling All United Brethren." Mrs. Shoop spoke on "With Our Chinese Christian Friends in War Time." Mrs. Paul Halliday, state president of the WCTU, brought a message on "Temperance and Missions." The offerings during the convention were designated for China Relief. The report of the fall institutes stated: "We were surprised to find that the attendance almost equaled the year before, and the offering was much more (gas rationing was expected to cut down the attendance). Mrs. Bierly was our speaker and she endeared herself to all, as well as presented the work in Kentucky in a ne'er-to-be-forgotten way. Her corn shuck dolls were well received and she could have sold many times the number she had with her." At an executive meeting, held at Oakwood Park, Lake Wawasee, during the annual conference of 1943, the resignations of Mrs. W. R. Sale, Secretary of Thank-offering, and of Miss Arabelle Enyart, Secretary of Literature, were accepted. Mrs. Sale was leaving the conference and Miss Enyart was under appointment to Africa as a teacher in the Harford School for Girls. The branch presented Miss Enyart \$60 to purchase shoes for her use in Africa. Miss Mary Snyder was named to succeed Mrs. Sale, and Mrs. M. E. Reed was chosen to fill the unexpired term of Miss Enyart.

### 1944—South Bend

The ministers of the conference held their Ministerial Institute at the same time and place as the branch convention. They joined with the women and girls for the Wednesday morning session which was set aside for the communion service and the memorial and Living Link services. Miss Alice Bell brought the opening meditation on the convention theme, "Faith in Action." Mrs. J. F. Musselman, missionary to Africa, was in the convention and gave messages from that field. Rev. Y. S. Tom, a Chinese pastor in Chicago, who later returned to China and became the head of the Kwangtung Synod of the Church of Christ in China, was presented and spoke on "The Church and China Today." Mrs. Nellie Frank Smith, Elkhart, a fraternal delegate from the Evangelical Women's Missionary Society, brought greetings from the Evangelical women, in her own words and in the written words of Mrs. J. S. Stamm, national president. Mrs. Nellie Engle told of the mission work in New Mexico, at the Guild session. At the meeting of the Board of Managers, held in Dayton, Ohio, in October, 1944, St. Joseph branch received an award as being the branch with the highest standing in the Association, according to the Branch Standard, as follows:

#### Branch Standard, 1943-1944

1. W.M.A. Day observed and an offering sent in by 90% of the societies.....100%
2. Net increase in societies—2 locals, 8 chapters, net gain of 10 new societies.....Yes
3. Net gain in membership in at least 75% of societies .....No—47%
4. Net increase in Evangels in at least 75% of societies .....No—53%
5. Increase in pledge over total giving of 1942-1943 paid in full .....Yes
6. All branch officers' reports on time.....Yes
7. Representation at institutes and camps of 75% of societies .....90%
8. 90% of societies promoting the Reading Course.....100%

At the 1944 Board meeting, Mrs. C. C. Yund, upon recommendation of the branch, was elected a trustee of the Association. This office Mrs. Yund held until the merger, when she was elected a member of the Council of the Women's Society of World Service in 1946, and again in 1950, serving as Chairman of the Committee on Young People's Work.

The missionary speaker at the fall institutes was Mrs. Nellie Engle from the New Mexico Mission. During the winter, Rev. and Mrs. Charles Leader made a "Missionary Crusade"

in the conference, in the interest of the Taiama project, in West Africa. They visited many churches, presenting the work in Africa, creating interest in missions, and gathering funds for advance work at their mission station.

#### 1945

"As an emergency measure, due to the 'no convention order' from the government, three one-day conventions were planned instead of the regular three-day convention at one place," recorded the secretary. The three places where the conventions were held were Logansport, Plymouth, and South Wayne Church, Fort Wayne. All followed the same program and the "team" which traveled from place to place included Mrs. J. B. Showers, Miss Gladys Ward, Mrs. E. M. Cornelius, Mrs. G. T. Rosselot, and Mrs. C. C. Yund, with Rev. E. M. Cornelius and Rev. G. T. Rosselot as drivers. This being the 70th anniversary of the Association, there were historical features. The "lavender books" were distributed as they were every year, 1937-1951. Each of the three conventions had the traditional memorial and Living Link service and the Living Link offering reached a total of \$2232.21. A service of recognition of honor societies, accepting the Plan of Work, and a methods hour, conducted by Mrs. Showers, were part of each day's program. There was a Guild dinner, the Guild processional and the evening service in charge of the Guilds at each place, with attendance at the Otterbein Guild dinners as follows: Logansport 40; Plymouth 40; Fort Wayne 100. There was a registration at the conventions of 85 out of 91 locals, and 42 out of 50 chapters, 507 women, 165 girls, 32 ministers, traditional memorial and Living Link service, and the Living Link fund had so far exceeded the \$1400 needed for the two projects, Miss McKenzie in Africa and the West China project, it was decided to designate \$1000 for furnishing the chapel in the new building at Harford School, Africa. This fund reached a final total of \$1234.37. Action was taken to add enough from the contingent fund to make the total of the evening offerings \$300, and this amount was designated for the World Literacy Fund.

At an executive committee meeting at Fort Wayne following the conventions, the resignation of Mrs. L. L. Huffman was accepted, her husband having been elected Publishing Agent of the denomination, and the Huffmans having moved to Dayton, Ohio. No one was named to fill the office of First Vice President; the branch officers arranged to perform the duties of the office until the next convention. Speakers at the fall institutes were Dr. C. W. Shoop, representing the Foreign Mission Board; Dr. Stanley B. Williams, representing the

Home Mission Board. Mrs. M. E. Reed presented the study books and Association methods.

#### 1946—Warsaw

The report of the president, in the "lavender book" of 1946, reflected the spirit of the time in the nation's history with the following statement, "The year of 1945 will go down in history as the date of the ending of the greatest and most terrible war in the history of the world. In our Association it marks the beginning of a quadrennium in which we, as Christian women and girls, have rededicated ourselves to rebuilding a torn and suffering world, to renewing our fellowship with our Christian brethren all over the world, even in those countries which have been called our enemies. Our theme has been 'Thy Kingdom Come . . . On Earth . . . Through Me.' We have recognized the fact that it is only through consecrated lives, our own lives, that the Kingdom can ever come on this earth." Mrs. Carl Eschbach, former missionary to the Philippines, Miss Ruth Miller, Otterbein Guild Secretary, and Rev. and Mrs. Richard Caulker, of Africa, were guest speakers. Mrs. Eschbach gave the devotional messages, Miss Miller conducted devotional periods and brought Association methods, and Rev. and Mrs. Caulker both addressed the convention, telling of mission work from the standpoint of the native African people. They sang together, "A Song of Peace." Mrs. Caulker won her way into the hearts of all with her gracious and winsome manner. It was her first visit to America; she had been in this country only a short time and was still rather shy but she gave a very fine message. It was a special privilege to meet Mrs. Ethel Roa who, during the year, had been designated as one of the Living Links of the branch, replacing the share in West Africa. She told of her work among the Latin American people in Ybor City, Tampa, Florida. The Otterbein Guild dinner was held in the Masonic Temple, and was attended by 185 girls and their counselors, and the branch officers. Following the dinner, Miss Ruth Miller, on behalf of the Guild girls, presented Margaret Edgington a gift as a token of their appreciation and high esteem of her. Miss Edgington was to become Mrs. Herbert C. Holmes later in the summer. After thirteen years as president of the branch, Mrs. Yund retired and Miss Edgington was elected to succeed her. Miss Edgington, for the branch, presented Mrs. Yund a Life Patronship, and Mrs. Yund, in return, gave the new president the gavel of African wood which Miss Mary McKenzie had brought from Africa some years before. The evening offerings were designated for the rebuilding of the three schools in the Philippines which

had been destroyed in the war. At an executive meeting during the year, the resignation of Mrs. H. V. Cole, as Secretary of Stewardship, was accepted and Mrs. Yund was named to act until the next election. A contribution was made to the Indiana Council of Church Women, the first of many such annual contributions. Fall institutes had as their missionary speaker, Rev. Peter Wong, young Chinese pastor, who spoke on "China Ever Changes" and "Sing Unto the Lord a New Song." Rev. A. H. Sholty, lately of the Army Intelligence Service, told of his experiences, and Mrs. Herbert C. Holmes brought the methods hours. The offerings, amounting to \$444.59, were given to Rev. Peter Wong to purchase audio-visual materials for use in China.

### **Women's Society of World Service—1946**

At Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on November 16, 1946, occurred the historic service at which the formal union of the United Brethren in Christ and the Evangelical Church took place, forming the Evangelical United Brethren Church. That same day, in the Johnstown Church, the women elected by the Women's Missionary Association of the United Brethren in Christ and the Women's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Church met to work out plans for the new Women's Society of World Service of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, and to elect its officers and choose its staff. They set December 10, 1946, as the date of a Planning Conference to which each branch sent representatives, Mrs. H. C. Holmes being the representative of St. Joseph branch.

### **1947—Elkhart Castle Church**

The first convention of the St. Joseph Branch of the Women's Society of World Service met in the Castle Church at Elkhart. Mrs. Irvine Robertson, missionary under the Ceylon and General Board, told of her work in India. Another speaker was Mrs. Leora Nagel, formerly missionary to the Philippines and now Secretary of Missionary Education of the Women's Society of World Service. Mrs. Yund, as a Council member, presented the methods of the new Women's Society of World Service. Rev. Wilbur Wilson told of the gift of a station wagon from the Roanoke Church to Rev. Peter Wong, and Mrs. Marie Gates, Kokomo, told of the gifts of that church to the Wong family, \$150 to buy prints for clothing, a bicycle for Rev. Wong, and a year's subscription to six magazines for the family. Mrs. Nellie Frank Smith, former Evangelical, and a member of the Women's Council, brought fraternal greetings. Mrs. H. I. Rudduck, president of the Indiana Council of Church Women, explained that organiza-

tion and its purpose. Bishop G. D. Batdorf was the speaker at an evening session, giving an address, "The Missionary Motive". Moses Mahoi, an African pre-medical student in Indiana Central College, gave an interesting talk on his native land and told what Christianity has meant to the African people. Mrs. Nagle used as the subject of her addresses on the Philippines, the first line of the Philippine national anthem, "Land of the Morning, Child of the Sun Returning", the first being a description of the country and its beauty and the second a message of hope for the Philippines after their sad experiences during the war. Action was taken that all over the Living Link obligation of \$1900 be applied to the purchase of a quonset church in Japan. Miss Arabelle Enyart, "our own missionary to Africa", attended the fall institutes, also Mrs. M. E. Reed and Dr. B. H. Cain.

#### 1948—Calvary Church, Fort Wayne

Miss Marion Baker, representing the Women's Society of World Service, brought devotional messages and methods periods. Miss Wavelene Babbitt, a teacher in Harford School for Girls in Africa, spoke in the young people's session and in a general session on "Up From Paganism" and "Let's Travel to Africa." Mrs. A. H. Sholty gave an address, "Children at the Crossroads of the World." Mrs. Elsie Esch, a member of the branch, had been doing volunteer work in the Latin Mission, Ybor City, and she gave a talk on the work there. Another much appreciated speaker was Dr. M. T. Viduya, the doctor in charge of Bethany Hospital, San Fernando, Philippine Islands, in the States to study surgery in Chicago. He gave a vivid picture of experiences during and after the Japanese occupation of his country. Mrs. Yund, on behalf of the branch, presented a book to the retiring president, Mrs. Holmes, who introduced the incoming president, Mrs. M. E. Reed. One evening offering was designated to apply on the furnishing of a four-bed ward in the new hospital at Espanola, New Mexico. The other evening offering was to go to Africa, the field represented by Miss Babbitt. The fall institutes had as their speaker, Mrs. Henry Esch, volunteer at the Latin Mission. An added feature was a symposium on missionary education of adults, young people and children. It was decided to use the institute offerings of \$448.23 to help purchase a piano for the mission at Ybor City. Later the Roas decided to use this fund to apply on the purchase of an organ for the new church in Ybor City.

#### 1949

The third annual convention of the St. Joseph branch of

the Women's Society of World Service was held at Plymouth. Miss Mary McLanachan gave the opening meditation, "Remember Jesus Christ"; she also conducted the methods periods. Rev. John Knecht, returned from missionary service in China, gave an address, illustrated with slides, on "Now Is the Time," also an address, "Christ and Communism." Mrs. Marjorie Knecht, one of "our own missionaries," talked to the young people at their banquet. An Elkhart Castle group gave a fine presentation of the play "The Channel." Workshops were a new feature of the convention program. Fraternal greetings were brought by Mrs. Waldo Keller, of South Bend, former Evangelical. Miss Ethel King, nurse in Kentucky, told of the history of the Central Kentucky Mission, its present and its future. Action was taken by the executive committee that a gift of \$200 be sent for the Kentucky work since the convention offerings were designated for China. The name of Mrs. C. L. Raymond appeared on the Memorial Roll, reminding the branch that another of its faithful workers had passed to her crowning. Mrs. Raymond had served as a branch officer for a total of twenty-five years, having been Secretary of Literature, 1908-1912; First Vice-President, 1912-1922; and President, 1922-1933. The cause of missions had been near to the hearts of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond throughout their lives, and upon their deaths, they bequeathed a major share of their estate, including their lovely home in Huntington, to the Board of Missions. Mrs. Raymond served as a trustee of the Association from 1929-1937.

The fall institutes in 1949 had as their speakers, Miss Justine Granner of the Central China Mission, and Mrs. Reed and Mrs. M. E. Raymond also "made the rounds." Mrs. Reed presented general methods and WWS materials, and Mrs. Raymond explained children's work and displayed materials for the missionary education of children. There were afternoon and evening sessions for the first time, there having previously been morning and afternoon sessions. Rev. I. R. Wood presented motion pictures of the 1949 Junior Camp, held at Camp Mack, Lake Wawbee, during the summer. The institute offerings were designated for the purchase of pews for the new church at Petaca, New Mexico.

#### 1950—Gary Centennial

The newly dedicated church at Gary, long a home mission project of the conference, was the host church. Dr. and Mrs. E. E. Lefforge, missionaries to West Africa, gave several addresses, Dr. Lefforge telling of his medical work at Taiama, and Mrs. Lefforge giving a picture of her work with mothers and babies. One evening, Dr. Lefforge showed pictures taken

while he was on the field. Rev. E. A. Russell, Brightshade, Kentucky, minister and friend of the Kentucky mountain people, showed colored slides and brought messages from his field of work. Mrs. J. B. Showers, National President of the Women's Society of World Service, gave an address on "Complete Fellowship," stressing ways in which we work together with other Christians in this country and around the world. Bishop Fred L. Dennis spoke three times, giving inspirational and devotional addresses. "A motion was made and carried that the audience be asked to use the little blue books given to them at the door for autographs of the people they meet at the convention. A little remembrance will be given to the individual who has the most autographs." Mrs. Everett Huffman of Fort Wayne received the award, a Spiritual Life Packet. Mrs. D. W. Zartman of Frankfort, who was almost eighty-four years old, was presented a carnation in recognition of her faithful work in the missionary society over a period of more than sixty years. Her parting thought in her brief response was, "If you want to reap the harvest you must sow the seed." The fall institutes were attended by Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Raymond, Mrs. Yund, and Mrs. A. B. Holmes as branch officers, and Rev. Edwin Fisher, Philippine Islands, as the missionary speaker.

### 1951—Decatur

The last annual convention of St. Joseph Branch was held at Decatur. The music was in charge of Mrs. O. M. Huffman who had served in the same capacity many times throughout the preceding years. Each delegate and visitor was given a small picture of a missionary who was to be a prayer partner during the convention. Mrs. J. W. Lake was presented to the convention. Mrs. Yund paid tribute to her, mentioning her years as a branch officer, eight years as Secretary of Auglaize Branch before the merger of the Indiana part of Auglaize Conference with St. Joseph Conference in 1901; seven years as Vice-president of St. Joseph Branch; eleven years as President; and sixteen years as Treasurer; a total of forty-two years, a record unequaled by any other officer of the branch. Mrs. Lake was accompanied from her home in Westerville, Ohio, by her daughter, Mrs. Gladys Michael.

Missionary speaker for the convention was Mrs. Minnie Dubs, veteran missionary to Central China. Dr. Janet Gilbert, Executive Secretary of the Women's Society of World Service, presented the methods. Bishop J. B. Showers gave a devotional address and he and Dr. Gilbert conducted a "workshop" which proved to be an interesting and informative period thoroughly

enjoyed by everyone who attended it. Dr. Gilbert and Bishop Showers were both in a very informal and humorous mood, and brought some very important information in an informal manner. Miss Martha Sullivan presided at the Youth Banquet, the theme being "Customs of Other Lands." The Youth Service, preceded by the traditional processional, was presided over by Mrs. David E. Livengood, and was addressed by Mrs. Dubs. "The Mid-Century Call to United Christian Youth Action" was presented, with the young people reading the "Call" commitment. Mrs. C. C. Yund gave a brief historical sketch telling of the organizing of St. Joseph branch in 1878, and of its history throughout the seventy-three years of its existence, with mention of events, people, and projects undertaken. The Christian Service Guild held their annual dinner meeting, with Miss Donica in charge, and the speakers and branch officers as guests.

**The following resolutions were read and passed by the convention:**

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph United Brethren and the Indiana Evangelical annual conferences have planned to merge, and are to be known as the Indiana North Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and

WHEREAS, according to the constitution provided for the Conference Branch Women's Society of World Service, a conference branch shall consist of the local societies belonging to the churches of the conferences in which it exists and

WHEREAS, we deem a merger of St. Joseph Branch and the Evangelical Branch a great opportunity to further the work of the Kingdom of God through united efforts, therefore:

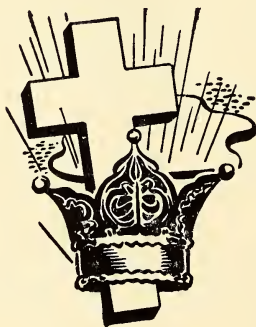
RESOLVED, that we do hereby approve the plan of the merger as submitted by the joint conference on merger, and that the merger of the St. Joseph Branch and the Indiana Evangelical Branch shall be consummated at Oakwood Park on August 25, 1951.

RESOLVED, that we delegate to the executive committee of this branch the authority to close the records of the St. Joseph Conference Branch of the Women's Society of World Service and that the authority is hereby given that all assets in money and equipment be turned over to the Indiana North Conference Branch of the Evangelical United Brethren Church when the merger is effected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we record our thanksgiving to God for the blessings He has so greatly bestowed upon St. Joseph Branch, and praise Him for the large sphere of service which we face in the merged conference branch,

and hereby record our pledge of loyalty and continued service to the work of the Indiana North Branch.

The secretary recorded, "As a fitting close to the last session as St. Joseph Branch, every one in the congregation joined hands and formed a circle around the sanctuary and sang in unison, 'Simply Trusting Every Day' . . . Mrs. M. E. Reed, Branch President, then declared the Seventy-third Annual Convention closed."





### SERVICE OF MERGER

On August 25, 1952, the merger of St. Joseph Branch with parts of White River Branch and Indiana Evangelical Branch took place at Oakwood Park, Lake Wawasee. Mrs. J. B. Showers, National President of the Women's Society of World Service, presided at the service of merger. Mrs. E. D. Mast, President of Indiana Evangelical Branch, led in a litany of thanksgiving; Mrs. R. S. Miller, President of White River Branch, read the scripture; and the litany of dedication was led by Mrs. M. E. Reed, President of St. Joseph Branch. Bishop J. Balmer Showers offered the prayer of dedication.

The Actions of Merger, as adopted by the branches, were read by the secretaries, and the ceremony of merger was participated in by all women present for the service. Previous to the time of the merging service, the members of each branch had received badges, signifying their branch membership. The women were seated, one former affiliation on each side of the aisle. The presidents stood at the altar, and as each woman gave up her badge, she clasped the hand of the president of the branch, other than her own, and received the badge of the new merged branch with its significant design of clasped hands. Then she returned to a seat, this time having as her partner, a member of a branch formerly not her own, and they took their places together in the merged group.

Following a moment of silent dedication of self, the prayer of dedication, and the declaration of merger, Mrs. Showers installed the new officers of Indiana Conference Branch North.

## ST. JOSEPH BRANCH—MERGER 1951

### LOCALS

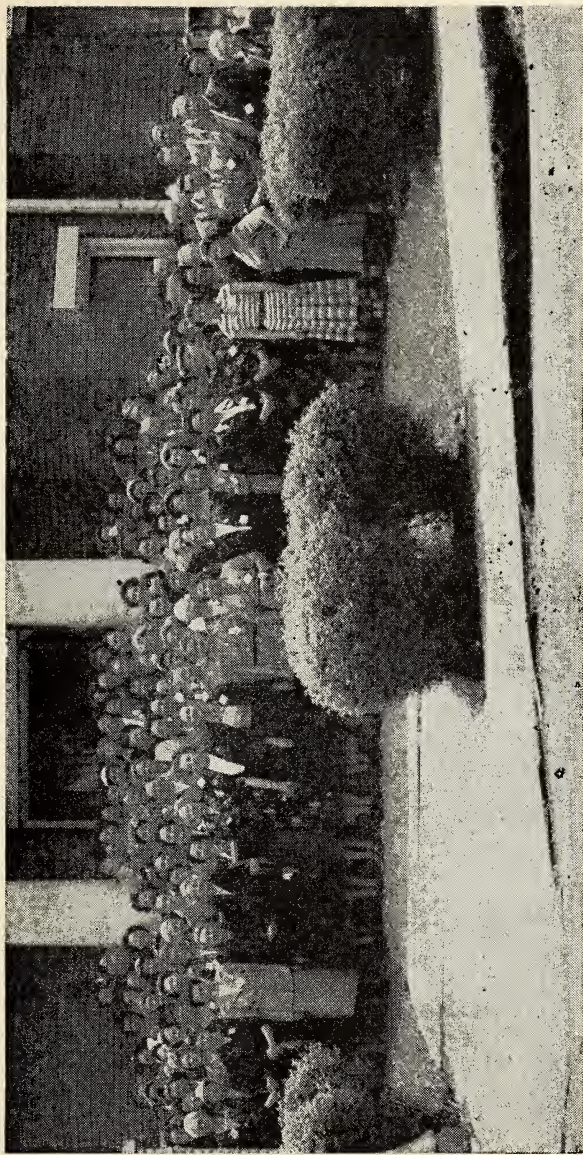
Albion	Fort Wayne—	Liberty Mills	Rochester
Athens	South Wayne	Ligonier	Showers
Atwood	Frankfort	Logansport	Corners
Bethesda	Fulton	Monroe-Conroe	Silver Lake
Bourbon	Galveston	Monroeville	South Bend—
Bremen	Gary—	Morocco	Central
Brimfield	Centennial	Mt. Zion—	South Bend—
Brook	Gary—	Morocco Ct.	Maple Lane
Brushwood	East Gary	Mt. Pleasant—	South Bend—
Burket	Gary—	Newville Ct.	Southlawn
Butler	Glen Park	Nappanee	South Whitley
Centenary	Gilboa	New Hope	Sugar Grove
Center, Young	Goblesville	Newville	Syracuse
America Ct.	Grass Creek	New Waverly	Teegarden
Churubusco	Hammond	Nine Mile	Tyner
Claypool	Hammond—	North	Union Chapel
Collins	North Side	Manchester	Walkerton
Columbia City	Hillsdale	Ossian	Walnut Creek
Decatur	Chapel	Otterbein	Warsaw
Elkhart—	Huntington	Packerton	Waterloo
Albright	Jefferson	Peru	Weaver Chapel
Elkhart—	Kokomo	Pleasant	Zanesville
Castle	Lafayette	Chapel	Zion—Butler
Erie	Laketon	Pleasant Lake	Zion—Pleasant
Etna Green	Lancaster	Plymouth	Crider Chapel
Farmer Chapel	Chapel	Poplar Grove	
Fort Wayne—	Liberty Chapel	Pyrmont	
Calvary	Battle	Rich Valley	
	Ground Ct.	Roanoke	

### CHRISTIAN SERVICE GUILDS

Elkhart—	Frankfort	Roanoke
Albright	Kokomo	Warsaw
Fort Wayne—	Lafayette	Waterloo
Calvary	Plymouth	

### GIRLS' MISSIONARY GUILDS

Bethesda	Lafayette	South Bend—
Bourbon	Pleasant	Maple Lane
Butler	Chapel	Union Chapel
Centenary	South Whitley	Walnut Creek
Churubusco		Waterloo



LAST ANNUAL CONVENTION OF ST. JOSEPH BRANCH  
WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF WORLD SERVICE  
May 8, 9, 10, 1951  
Evangelical United Brethren Church  
Decatur, Indiana

## OFFICERS OF ST. JOSEPH BRANCH - 1878-1951

### PRESIDENT

Mrs. George Sickafoose	1878-1883
Mrs. E. F. Light	1883-1893
Mrs. Joseph Richer	1893-1906
	1910-1911
Mrs. J. C. Fretz	1906-1910
Mrs. J. W. Lake	1911-1922
Mrs. C. L. Raymond	1922-1933
Mrs. C. C. Yund	1933-1946
Mrs. H. C. Holmes	1946-1948
Mrs. M. E. Reed	1948-Merger

Mrs. L. F. Gerber	1913-1917
Mrs. Bessie Hays	1917-1918
Mrs. A. E. Grubbs	1918-1919
Mrs. J. W. Lower	1919-1925
Mrs. V. T. Weatherhead	1925-1926
Mrs. M. R. Garber	1926-1933
Mrs. Thomas Hamlin	1933-1936
Mrs. B. F. Dotson	1936-1944
Mrs. Marshall Chambers	1944-1947
Mrs. M. S. Livengood	1947-1951
Mrs. Everett Huffman	1951-Merger

### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. G. W. Sickafoose	1878-
Mrs. E. F. Light	-1894
Mrs. Noah Castle	1894-1895
Mrs. George Sickafoose	1895-1903
Mrs. J. W. Lake	1903-1906
Mrs. Joseph Richer	1906-1910
Mrs. J. C. Fretz	1910-1912
Mrs. C. L. Raymond	1912-1922
Mrs. J. A. Farmer	1922-1925
Mrs. C. J. Roberts	1925-1931
Mrs. C. C. Yund	1931-1933
Mrs. M. R. Garber	1933-1942
Mrs. L. L. Huffman	1942-1946
Mrs. C. C. Yund	1946-1949
Mrs. O. J. Miller	1949-Merger

### SECRETARY

Mrs. E. F. Light	1878-1883
Mrs. R. P. Burton	1883-
Mrs. Alice Pennell	
Mrs. Mate Eby Horner	
Mrs. J. L. Parks	1888-1900
Mrs. G. F. Byrer	1900-1926
Mrs. S. F. Eberhart	1926-1936
Mrs. R. E. Vance	1936-1937
Mrs. B. F. Smith	1937-1943
Mrs. E. M. Cornelius	1943-1949
Mrs. Byron Bollinger	1949-1951
Mrs. Howard Williams	1951-Merger

### SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Fletcher Thomas	1878-
Mrs. W. M. Bell	1893-1894
Mrs. George Sickafoose	1894-1895
Mrs. J. W. Delong	1895-1896
Mrs. Speicher	1896-1897
Mrs. J. C. Fretz	1897-1898
Mrs. L. O. Oyler	1898-1902
Mrs. J. W. Lake	1902-1903
Mrs. George Sickafoose	1903-1906
Mrs. J. W. Lake	1906-1908
Mrs. W. S. Gandy	1908-1910
Mrs. J. W. Lake	1910-1911
Mrs. E. F. Light	1911-1912
Mrs. Julia Humes	1912-1913

### TREASURER

Mrs. J. R. Brown	1878-1893
Mrs. R. P. Burton	1893-1904
Mrs. L. O. Oyler	1904-1924
Mrs. J. W. Lake	1924-1939
Mrs. A. B. Holmes	1939-1943
Mrs. J. E. Chambers	1943-1946
Mrs. O. M. Huffman	1946-1947
Mrs. C. C. Coverdale	1947-1950
Mrs. A. B. Holmes	1950-Merger

### Secretary of Literature Secretary of Missionary Education

Mrs. C. L. Raymond	1908-1912
Mrs. R. F. Barnes	1912-1913
Mrs. C. H. Piatt	1913-

Mrs. Urban Dietrich .....1913-1917  
 Mrs. L. F. Gerber .....1917-1932  
 Mrs. John Leneman .....1932-1935  
 Mrs. L. L. Huffman .....1935-1942  
 Miss Arabelle Enyart ..1942-1943  
 Mrs. M. E. Reed .....1943-1948  
 Mrs. R. W. Harvey ..1948-Merger

#### Secretary of Thank-offering

Mrs. Fred Pyle .....1915-1917  
 Mrs. J. V. Wiesman .....1917-1919  
 Mrs. John Hill.....1919-1925  
 Mrs. C. H. Johnson.....1925-1928  
 Mrs. Ada Bailey .....1928-1941  
 Mrs. W. R. Sale.....1941-1943  
 Miss Mary Snyder .....1943-1946  
 Mrs. D. H. Welker .....1946-1947

#### Secretary of Stewardship

Mrs. B. F. Bean.....1929-1931  
 Mrs. C. J. Roberts .....1931-1933  
 Mrs. F. A. Risley .....1933-1944  
 Mrs. H. V. Cole.....1944-1946

#### Secretary of Spiritual Life

Mrs. O. J. Miller .....1946-Merger

#### Secretary of Living Link

Mrs. L. O. Oyler .....1927-1933  
 Miss Bertha Wohlheiter  
   1933-1934  
 Mrs. Burl Heck.....1934-1940  
 Mrs. Frank Sanders.....1940-1943  
 Mrs. G. T. Rosselot.....1943-1949  
 Mrs. I. R. Wood.....1949-Merger

#### Secretary of Christian Social Relations

Mrs. A. H. Sholty .....1947-1948  
 Mrs. Howard Williams 1948-1951  
 Mrs. Everett Huffman  
   1951-Merger

#### Secretary of Christian Service Guilds

Miss Anna Mary Glick 1947-  
 Miss Frances Donica  
   1947-Merger

#### Secretary of Young Women's Bands

#### Secretary of Young People's Societies

#### Secretary of Otterbein Guild Secretary of Young People's Work

Miss Oma Flora .....1910-1911  
 Mrs. M. R. Garber .....1911-1914  
 Miss Belle Elder.....1914-1919  
 Miss Ruth McCoy.....1919-1922  
 Miss Grace Roberts .....1922-1927  
 Miss Mary Keller .....1927-1928  
 Miss Ethel Smith .....1928-1934  
 Miss Margaret Edgington  
   1934-1946  
 Miss Martha Sullivan ..1946-1951  
 Mrs. C. C. Yund .....1949-Merger

#### Secretary of Children's Work

#### Junior Superintendent

#### Children's Director

#### Secretary of Missionary Education for Children

Miss Amanda Huffman 1911-1914  
 Mrs. M. S. Livengood....1914-1915  
 Miss Bertha Wohlheiter  
   1915-1918  
 Mrs. J. B. Glick .....1918-1919  
 Mrs. G. R. Champlin .....1919-1926  
 Mrs. H. V. Cole .....1926-1928  
 Mrs. G. R. Champlin .....1928-1944  
 Mrs. G. V. Regenos .....1944-1946  
 Mrs. M. E. Raymond  
   1946-Merger

## DISTRICT LEADERS — 1911-1951

Mrs. C. L. Raymond	Mrs. J. W. Miller	Mrs. Frank Robinson
Mrs. J. A. McFarland	Mrs. L. L. McDonald	Mrs. W. H. Green
Mrs. J. W. Lake	Mrs. Luther Myers	Mrs. Bernice Bortner
Mrs. Sherman Hess	Mrs. W. A. Kennedy	Mrs. Charles Smith
Mrs. C. J. Miner	Mrs. Maude Lambert	Mrs. Ray Kauffman
Mrs. Bessie Hays	Mrs. Fred Green	Mrs. I. R. Wood
Miss Ethel Alexander	Mrs. F. O. Baker	Mrs. Henry
Mrs. H. H. Barsh	Mrs. M. R. Garber	McGregor
Miss Ella Shanklin	Mrs. J. B. Glick	Mrs. Vern
Mrs. J. W. Borkett	Mrs. S. O. Sanders	Flossenzier
Mrs. L. F. Gerber	Mrs. N. McCoy	Mrs. R. W. Martin
Miss Oma Flora	Mrs. V. T.	Mrs. Dan Shewman
Mrs. Julia Humes	Weatherhead	Mrs. Forrest Paul
Mrs. J. V. Weisman	Mrs. Homer	Mrs. W. A. Bickel
Mrs. D. O. Deardorff	Osterman	Mrs. Roscoe Garber
Mrs. Ada Deitrich	Mrs. Ethel McDonald	Mrs. Herbert
Mrs. G. N. Lake	Mrs. C. E. Cherry	Lopshire
Mrs. Frank Yenner	Mrs. Earl Miller	Mrs. H. B. Martin
Mrs. Lena Bauer	Mrs. R. F. Kleckner	Mrs. Waldo Bowman
Mrs. R. F. Barnes	Mrs. Stella Doty	Mrs. A. H. Sholty
Mrs. Eva Unger	Mrs. Carl Beck	Mrs. Arthur
Mrs. D. E. Shuman	Mrs. Waldo Keller	Ridenour
Mrs. H. A. Keller	Mrs. Ada Bailey	Mrs. O. J. Miller
Mrs. A. E. Grubbs	Mrs. George Ogden	Mrs. Gordon
Mrs. John Silvius	Mrs. Effie Sprague	Holloway
Mrs. Cora Husselman	Mrs. N. E. Moudy	Mrs. J. Earl Brewer
Mrs. Frank Fogel	Mrs. Gertrude Bibler	Mrs. R. W. Harvey
Mrs. J. W. Love	Mrs. Victor Odum	Mrs. Orville Sexton
Mrs. S. F. Eberhart	Mrs. C. C. Yund	Mrs. Grace House
Mrs. Zoe Thomas	Mrs. D. W. Zartman	Mrs. William
Mrs. John Leneman	Mrs. Charles Lewis	Gingher
Mrs. A. B. Holmes	Mrs. Henry Esch	Miss Lucetta Frantz
Mrs. John Baker	Mrs. Roy Turner	Mrs. Perry Stump
Mrs. D. O. Miller	Mrs. Floyd Albright	Miss Helen Roberts
Mrs. C. J. Roberts	Mrs. Alva Nickels	Mrs. James Titus
Mrs. Arthur Cline	Mrs. Margaret Hill	Mrs. A. W. York

## OUR OWN MISSIONARIES

**Rev. Oliver Hadley**, member of St. Joseph Conference. Attended Roanoke Classical Seminary, sailed for Africa in October, 1866. Served under most discouraging circumstances, only missionaries on the field after four years of native supervision. Returned to America because of broken health, arrived in April, 1869, and died a few weeks later Buried near Otterbein, Indiana.

**Mrs. Oliver Hadley**, daughter of Rev. David Brown, pioneer minister in Benton County, Indiana, attended Hartsville Academy, served in Africa 1866-1869. Returned to Africa in October, 1871. Recalled 1874 to become corresponding secretary and organizer for Miami Branch. Later re-married and, as Mrs. M. B. Bridgeman, became first president of Upper Wabash Branch.

**Mrs. George Sickafoose**, first president of St. Joseph Branch and, from 1883 until 1893, superintendent of a Christian School for Chinese at Portland, Oregon. Resigned because of ill health, and returned for residence within the branch.

**Rev. George Sickafoose**, assisted his wife with the work of the school in Portland. Was sent by the Foreign Mission Board to locate a mission in China. Sailed October, 1889. and having succeeded in accomplishing his mission, returned to America in June, 1890.

**Miss Ella Schenck**, daughter of Rev. D. L. Schenck, pastor at Decatur when she was commissioned for her second term of service in Africa. Sailed to Africa in September, 1891, served three and a half years. Returned to Africa October, 1897, became matron of the girls' school at Rotifunk. One of seven missionaries who lost their lives in the uprising of 1898. The Decatur Church has a memorial window for Miss Schenck.

**Dr. A. T. Howard**, ordained in St. Joseph Conference, 1894. Attended Otterbein College. In November, 1894, went to Africa, became principal of the Rufus Clark Training School at Shenge. Returned to America May, 1898, the same month in which the massacre took place at the mission. In August, 1898, sent to Japan to open a mission. Served in Japan until 1912. Missionary Bishop, 1913-1921; President of Bonebrake Seminary two terms and also Professor of Missions and Sociology until retirement in 1942.

**Mrs. May Stephenson Howard**, lived in Kokomo during her High School days, attended Otterbein College where she met Dr. A. T. Howard, served as a missionary with him in Africa and Japan.

**Rev. Edwin S. Eby**, Elkhart. Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board to the Philippine Islands in 1900. Arrived in Manila April, 1901. Resigned in September, 1902, and began work with the Army YMCA in the Philippines.

**Miss Ella Shanklin**, Waterloo, served as a missionary to Africa, 1908-1912. In 1917 she was appointed by the Home Mission Board to serve in New Mexico, where she helped in establishing a new station at Alcalde, remaining there until 1919, when she returned to her home in Waterloo.

**Rev. and Mrs. F. A. Risley**, "adopted missionaries." Came into contact with St. Joseph Branch when first married and living in Goshen, Indiana, following his first term of service in Africa 1909-1912. Together went to Africa in 1913, returning to America in January, 1921, because of the health of their son. Rev. Risley returned to Africa alone and stayed from September, 1921, until May, 1924. Served pastorates in St. Joseph Conference until his death in 1942, following which Mrs. Risley became a pastor in the conference.

**Rev. G. T. Rosselot**, from the Kokomo church, missionary to Africa, 1920-1939. Superintendent of the Shenge District, and later principal of Albert Academy at Freetown. In 1928, married Miss Grace Bowie, missionary under another board. Returned to America in 1939 and served pastorates in St. Joseph Conference.

**Rev. Floyd L. Roberts**, son of Rev. and Mrs. C. J. Roberts, commissioned in the Galveston church where his father was pastor, appointed to missionary service in Japan under the Foreign Mission Board August, 1921, returned to America at the time of the Japanese earthquake in 1923. Served in Japan under the American Board for Foreign Missions (Congregational), 1929-1942. Returned to Congregational pastorate in America.

**Rev. Alva H. Sholty**, Fairview Church, Burket Circuit, attended Otterbein College where he met Miss Ruth Conley of Johnstown, Pa., later Mrs. A. H. Sholty. Together they served as missionaries in Japan, located in Toyko, 1922-1927. Returned to the pastorate in St. Joseph Conference.

**Mrs. Bertha Rager Leader**, member of the Laketon Church, interested in missions since childhood, was president of the Otterbein Guild in her local church. Attended Indiana Central College and became a teacher. At branch convention in 1922, offered her life for full-time Christian Service. Married Rev. Charles W. Leader and with him has served as an evangelistic missionary in Sierra Leone, West Africa, since 1925.

**Miss Arabelle Enyart**, Fulton Church, taught in her home town after attending Indiana Central College. Served as president of her Otterbein Guild and as Secretary of Literature of the branch. Commissioned for missionary service in Africa in the Fulton Church. Teacher in Harford School for Girls, West Africa, 1944-1947. Later served in Nigeria with the Sudan Interior Mission.

**Mrs. Marjorie Hill Knecht** (Mrs. John Knecht), daughter of Rev. and Mrs. S. M. Hill of St. Joseph Conference, attended Indiana Central College where she met her husband, a member of White River Conference. Served in China, 1946-1947, when they had to return to the homeland because of the health condition of Rev. Knecht.

**Dr. E. E. Lefforge**, from the North Manchester church, and later, with Mrs. Lefforge, member of the East Gary church. Dr. Lefforge held pastorates in the conference during his student days. Dr. and Mrs. Lefforge served as missionaries in Africa 1947-1951, he as a doctor at Taiama and Mrs. Lefforge working with African mothers and babies in the dispensary and clinic.

**Miss Bertha Wohlheiter** (later Mrs. A. B. Holmes), Elkhart, teacher 1918-1924 at Velarde and Alcalde, New Mexico.

**Miss Carrie Sloat** (later Mrs. G. R. Champlin), teacher at Velarde, New Mexico, 1919.

**Miss Ethel Potts**, Decatur, teacher at Santa Cruz, New Mexico, one year, about 1920.

**Rev. G. V. Regenos**, pastor at Amistad, New Mexico, 1923-1924.

**Rev. A. W. York**, pastor at Espanola and Santa Cruz Churches, New Mexico, 1931-1933.

**Miss Lois Zimmerman**, Solomon's Creek Church, teacher at Beech Fork Settlement School, Red Bird Mission, Kentucky, 1946-1948. Children's Worker at Central Kentucky Mission, 1948-1950.

**Miss Lula Zimmerman**, Solomon's Creek Church, Matron of Junior High School girls in the dormitory at Beverly, Red Bird Mission, Kentucky, 1946-1950.

**Miss Helen Uncapher**, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. O. I. Uncapher, laboratory technician, Espanola Hospital, New Mexico, 1950-1952.

**Miss Martha Rose Clark**, R.N., Ossian, hospital at Beverly, Red Bird Mission, Kentucky, 1950-.

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Speed Thy servants, Savior, speed them;  
Thou art Lord of winds and waves;  
They were bound, but Thou hast freed them;  
Now they go to free the slaves;  
Be Thou with them! Be Thou with them!  
'Tis Thine arm alone that saves.

Friends, and home, and all forsaking,  
Lord, they go at Thy command,  
As their stay Thy promise taking,  
While they traverse sea and land:  
O be with them! O be with them!  
Lead them safely by the hand.

In the midst of opposition  
Let them trust, O Lord, in Thee;  
When success attends their mission,  
Let Thy servants humble be;  
Never leave them, never leave them,  
Till Thy face in Heaven they see!

Thomas Kelly

## LIVING LINK

Beginning with "the house in Africa" in 1879, special projects of St. Joseph Branch have been varied and of world-wide extent. Before 1924 they were the incentive for much missionary giving but they were chosen as the need was presented without any year-by-year plan.

At the annual convention held in the Elkhart Castle Church in 1924, Mrs. J. Hal Smith, Special Support Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, proposed that St. Joseph Branch take a "Living Link" of \$625 for the support of Mrs. B. F. Shively, missionary to Japan. At the end of the convention it was found that cash and pledges justified assuming Mrs. Shively's support and also a major share in the support of Rev. G. T. Rosselot, Shenge, Sierra Leone, West Africa. From 1924 until 1951 the Living Link project made its appeal to the women and girls of St. Joseph Branch, and the Living Link service was one of the most impressive features of annual conventions. Most of the money for the project was contributed at the April meetings of the local societies, where the Living Link project was presented. Then it was taken to the convention in May and, after a memorial service for those who had passed away during the year, delegates and visitors formed a processional to the front of the sanctuary, passing by and placing their contributions to the Living Link fund upon a table with an open Bible or other significant objects.

### Living Link Projects

1924-1942	Support of Mrs. B. F. Shively.....a year	\$700.00
1924-1930	Major share in support of	
	Rev. G. T. Rosselot.....a year	700.00
1930-1935	Harford School for Girls, Africa.....a year	700.00
1935-1947	Support of Miss Mary McKenzie, Africa...a year	700.00
1943	Work in West China.....	780.91
1944	Work in West China.....	1208.86
1945	Work in West China.....	1565.46
1946	Work in West China.....	700.00
1946	Chapel for Harford School for Girls.....	1234.37
1947	Salary of Mrs. Ethel Roa, Latin Mission.....	1200.00
1947	Work in West China.....	700.00
1947	Work in the Philippine Islands.....	963.25
1948	Support of Mrs. Roa.....	1200.00
1948	Chapel at Sigay, P. I.....	700.00
1948	Station Wagon for Latin Mission.....	540.81
1949	Support of Mrs. Roa.....	1404.00
1949	Quonset Church, Japan.....	777.94
1950	Support of Mrs. Roa.....	1500.00
1950	Evangelistic Work, P. I.....	1002.29
1951	Support of Mrs. Roa.....	1500.00
1951	Christian Literature for China.....	1077.16

## MISSIONARY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

When St. Joseph Branch was organized, there was no separate organization for children; their names were carried on the rolls of the local societies. The reports of the North Manchester local society for 1878-1879 show that six members were enrolled at the end of the first quarter. During the other quarters of the year, six adults and nineteen children were enrolled, the total membership at the end of the year being reported as twenty-five, of whom at least nineteen were children. This, however, seems to have been an unusually large proportion of children in the membership of a local, but it was not unusual to have some children on the rolls.

It was not long before some of the women had the conviction that there should be an organization for children, and various means were employed to arouse their interest. Missionary boxes were packed, and "mite boxes" were distributed among the children for their missionary contributions.

The secretary noted that, in 1882, Forest, on the Colburn Circuit, had a Children's Band with 34 members and a reported contribution of \$16.90. Lafayette had a Gleaners' Band of 35 members, their contribution for the year being \$7.25.

Since the records for the years 1883-1892 are lost, we cannot know about the early growth in the number of Children's Bands, or Gleaners' Bands, as they were called by the Association. From the one meager source of information we have about those "lost years" we find that, in 1883, there were 13 Children's Bands with 175 members, and that the number of members in 1885 was 228. There is a record that in 1893, the children of the Deer Creek church gave an offering of \$8.52 for "Chinese girls", probably for the mission school in Portland, Oregon. In 1894, Ligonier had a membership of 26 in its Children's Band, East Pleasant had three and Frankfort had 19. By 1896, there were only five bands with a membership of 108 and in 1897, only two bands with 44 members. In 1898, Mrs. Parks, the branch secretary, recorded, "We at present have no regularly organized young women's or children's bands but their membership is included in the regular locals". The names of the Bremen and Fort Wayne Busy Bees, the Poplar Grove Gleaners' Band, and the Tyner, South Whitley and North Manchester Juniors occur often in the reports of the branch treasurer in the years between 1900 and 1912.

Miss Amanda Huffman was the first branch secretary of children's work. She prepared her first report in 1912, having been elected the previous year. Miss Geneva Harper visited the branch convention in 1912 and held a "School of Missions for Junior Work". Children's Bands and Gleaners' Bands had

been discontinued by the Association and the missionary education for children had been placed under a general Junior Committee, with representatives of the Christian Endeavor Department and the Women's Missionary Association.

The Board of Christian Education of St. Joseph Conference took over the supervision of all children's work in 1914. Since that time, while the Junior Superintendent, Director of Children's Work or Secretary of Missionary Education for Children, as she has been variously called, has been elected by the conference, she has been a member of the executive committee of the branch, and there has been the closest co-operation between the branch and the women who have been responsible for the missionary education of children in the conference.

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### YOUNG WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

In the early days of the branch many young women were members of local societies. The Young People's Band of Peru sent a contribution to the branch treasurer in 1893. Fort Wayne church had a Young Women's Band as early as 1902, but it was not until 1909 that the women began to make an active effort to organize Young Women's Bands, as they were called. By 1910 enough interest had been aroused that Miss Oma Flora was elected Secretary of Young Women although there were only two young women's organizations, Fort Wayne and Kokomo. The next year Mrs. Lois Garber was elected to succeed Miss Flora and that year, 1911, Bethesda chapter was added to the roll.

In 1912, Miss Geneva Harper, National Secretary of Young Women's Work, attended the annual convention and aroused new interest with her "School of Missions for Young Women's Work". It was decided to ask for her services as field worker in the branch the following summer. Mrs. Lake, branch president, and Mrs. Garber worked out an itinerary for her. However, at the meeting of the Board of Managers in 1912, Miss Harper was succeeded by Miss Vera Blinn, who was asked to visit the branch. At that board meeting the name of the young women's organization was changed to Otterbein Guild thus making Mrs. Garber the first Secretary of Otterbein Guilds in St. Joseph Branch.

During the month of July 1912, Miss Blinn traveled over the conference organizing new Otterbein Guilds so that by the next convention there were thirteen Guilds in the branch. The number steadily increased until the highest number of Guilds was reported in 1944 when there were 52 chapters. At the time of the merger there were 51 chapters.

Miss Belle Elder followed Mrs. Garber and did much traveling, organizing new Guilds and strengthening the ones already organized.

The name of the Otterbein Guild was changed to Girls' Missionary Guild in 1946. The office of the Secretary of Girls' Missionary Guild was discontinued in 1951 and the branch Secretary of Young People's Work took over the supervision of the G.M.G. secretaries. In 1936 the offices of Second Vice President and Branch Counselor were combined and Mrs. B. F. Dotson, Mrs. Marshall E. Chambers and Mrs. David E. Livengood served in that office until 1951 when the Secretary of Young People's Work assumed the supervision of G.M.G. counselors.

For a brief period of time, the Otterbein Guild provided program material for younger girls who cared to become a World Friendship Circle. In St. Joseph Branch, only South Bend and Elkhart Albright churches had such organizations between the years of 1937 and 1946.

The first Guild rallies were held in 1925, when Miss Janet Gilbert, newly elected National Secretary of Otterbein Guilds attended a series of four rallies in various parts of the branch. Miss Grace Roberts and Mrs. C. C. Yund also attended these summer meetings. From that time until 1930, rallies were held each summer.

The first Otterbein Guild Camp was held in 1930 at Camp Alexander Mack on Lake Wawbee. Miss Ethel Smith, Otterbein Guild Secretary, planned and directed the camp. The mission study books and Otterbein Guild methods were presented by Mrs. Yund, and Mrs. Alva Sholty former missionary to Japan, was the Sunday morning speaker. From 1930 to 1934 Guild camps were held each year at Camp Mack with the branch Guild secretaries in charge. Speakers were: 1931, Mrs. C. L. Raymond; 1932, Miss Janet Gilbert; 1933, Miss Mary McLanachan; 1934, Miss Carrie Miles.

In order that more girls might be reached, it was decided to discontinue the camp in 1935. Four rallies were held that summer, and Miss Margaret Edgington, Guild Secretary, and Miss Carrie Miles, missionary to the Philippine Islands, were the speakers. Other rallies were held thereafter with the following speakers: 1936, Miss Nora Vesper, R.N., Africa; 1937, Miss Katherine Herring, Africa; 1938, Miss Mary McLanachan; 1939, Miss Pik Wing Hoh, Chinese student; 1940, Miss Janet Gilbert; 1941, Miss Ethel King, R.N., Kentucky; 1942, Miss McLanachan. Miss Margaret Edgington attended all but one year and Mrs. Dotson attended many of the rallies.

In 1943, because of the war and the rationing of gasoline,

it was decided not to hold the summer rallies but Miss McLanachan taught a class in missions at Oakwood Park, Lake Wawasee and the Guild girls were encouraged to enroll in the course. Mrs. Yund taught the class in 1944 and Miss Edgington in 1945. After that time, no summer get-togethers for girls were held throughout the branch but girls were encouraged to attend the Leadership Training Camps at Oakwood Park and to take the courses in missions which were offered almost every year.

Beginning in 1920, one session of the branch convention was in charge of the girls of the Otterbein Guild. A banquet was held in the entertaining church, with a program at the tables. A processional to the sanctuary was a traditional feature of "Guild Night" and there was a missionary speaker at the evening service with the Guild president presiding and special music by Guild girls. Following the merger, the banquet and evening service were in charge of the young people of the conference, and instead of being designated as "Guild Night", it became "Youth Night".

At the time of the merger in 1946, the Youth Fellowship came into being with all young people included in its program of missionary education. Girls' Missionary Guilds continued but gradually they were disbanded as Youth Fellowships with their Commissions on Missions and Social Action became organized. In 1951 there were 12 Girls' Missionary Guilds. The work of the Young Women's Department throughout the years has been a blessing to countless girls and its results have been evident as they have taken their places in the work of the local societies. With the organizing of Youth Fellowships, it is the hope and the prayer of the branch that the boys as well as the girls may receive the challenge of a worldwide vision.

### **The Harford Circle and Christian Service Guild**

The Harford Circle began its existence in 1933 when the Board of Managers of the Women's Missionary Association authorized an organization for business and professional women, to be listed with local societies and to report to the branch secretary. At the time of the merger in 1946, the name was changed to the Christian Service Guild. Miss Anna Mary Glick was elected the first Secretary of Christian Service Guilds in the branch in 1947 but she resigned immediately and Miss Frances Donica served from 1947 until the merger in 1952. Each year at the convention, Miss Donica planned and presided at a fellowship dinner for all members of the Christian Service Guilds, with the branch officers and the missionaries and staff workers in attendance at the convention as invited guests.

## ANNUAL BRANCH CONVENTIONS

A high point in the year for the women and girls of St. Joseph branch was the annual convention, usually held in May. The first year there was a one-day convention, later two days were used, while in more recent years, three-day conventions were the rule. A notable exception was in 1945 when, because of gas rationing and a government order against large conventions, it was decided to have three one-day conventions, held in different parts of the branch.

In the early days there was no prepared program. There was an "annual sermon" preached by a minister of the conference. Some woman was appointed, after her arrival, to conduct the devotions at each session. The first few years, most of the time was spent in discussing the work of the preceding year as each delegate gave her report. There were many discussions on ways of better promoting the work of the local societies. Letters were read from the General Secretary of the Women's Missionary Association and from the few missionaries who were either in Africa or China, the two early mission fields. A report of the resolutions committee was an annual feature, and later the report of the Evangel committee was added. After a few years, there was the report of the nominating committee, and still later the Otterbein Guild committee brought an annual report. Prayer held a significant place in the program of each annual convention. For many years a member of the entertaining society gave an address of welcome, with a response by one of the delegates. Solos, quartettes, recitations and readings were many, and occasioned frequent favorable comments by the recording secretaries.

All money was taken to the convention in the first few years, and the treasurer spent much time receiving and recording and "making the books balance." Mrs. Raymond, in her history written in 1938, tells of receiving a letter from Mrs. Belle Parks, early officer of the branch. "She relates her first experience in branch work. Her local society, North Manchester, elected her as a delegate to the branch meeting to be held at Poplar Grove, May 2, 1888. It was a frightened young woman, with her eighteen-months-old baby that started to the convention with Mrs. R. P. Burton. In brief, at the meeting she acted as delegate, also secretary and treasurer in the absence of the secretary, Mrs. Mae Hoerner, and the treasurer, Mrs. J. R. Brown. What a time she had to make the reports of the secretary and treasurer balance! They just wouldn't agree! Mrs. L. R. Keister, then the General Secre-

tary, came to her rescue and soon accounts were straightened. She was elected secretary at this convention."

Much discussion took place at the conventions in the early days of the branch because of the lack of funds with which to pay delegates' expenses to the annual meetings of the Board of Managers. Finally a treasurer of a branch contingent fund was elected and it became her responsibility to gather funds at conventions for the use of the branch. There was no plan, for several years, of making local societies responsible for sending in specified sums for use of the branch executive committee in financing the work of the branch.

Special memberships were taken in conventions and with great success. Women were named for this task and often the Association representative gave good assistance in promoting this phase of the convention program. Evangel subscriptions were also secured at conventions, and many women who lived in communities where there were local societies attended conventions and paid their dues.

Fraternal delegates to Christian Endeavor conventions and to the annual conference were named for several years, the custom being discontinued in later years.

The ministers of the conference were faithful visitors at conventions. Their names appeared in the minutes when they preached sermons, offered prayer, gave "words of encouragement" as they often did, particularly in the early years of the branch, provided special music, or were introduced by the courtesy committee. There was frequent reference to the fact that "the ministers were introduced and sang a song." Sixty-eight in 1931 is the highest number of ministers reported at any convention.

Almost from the beginning, a missionary has been in each convention and a representative of the Association has presented methods of carrying on the work of the local societies. Plan of Work Committees have outlined plans for the coming year, courtesy committees have recognized visitors and expressed appreciation of missionary speakers, branch officers and entertaining churches. For many years, a communion service has been a part of each convention, usually conducted by the host pastor or by a presiding elder or a conference superintendent. The Living Link and the Memorial Services have been impressive and they are cherished memories of those who have attended the conventions.

For many years awards have been made to societies reaching goals which have been set up by the Association or by

the branch. At first these awards were in the form of pennants and were given to the society which had the greatest increase in members, in Evangelists, or in funds, per capita. In about 1915, pennants were awarded to such societies and a silk flag of one of the mission fields was awarded to societies meeting all the requirements of the Association Standard of Excellence. Still later, the branch formulated its own Efficiency Chart with a certain number of "points" for each item mentioned, and a lavender ribbon became the award, the number of points attained being printed on the ribbon. Action was taken in about 1935, to give a reading course book or a mission study book to the local or chapter whose every member met the requirements of the reading course. Later, churches were given awards if they had promoted children's missionary education and had met certain standards. The part of the program which included the giving of awards was known as the "recognition service", and the awards were made by the Vice Presidents, the Secretary of Literature and the Otterbein Guild Secretary.

Conventions have always been held in churches, thirty-six different churches having entertained the convention. Elkhart Castle Church has the distinction of having been the host church seven times, with Huntington a close second with six times. With a few exceptions, meals have been served by the entertaining church. There has been no registration fee but meal tickets have been purchased upon registration, and lodging and breakfast have been provided in homes, without cost to the delegates and visitors.

Fellowship has been an outstanding feature of branch conventions and many lasting friendships have been formed and have been renewed year after year. Personal contacts between branch officers and local officers have been valuable in carrying on the work of the societies. Officers' meetings, interest groups and workshops have created opportunities for sharing experiences and methods and for becoming better acquainted. Otterbein Guild and Youth banquets and Christian Service Guild dinners have been times of fellowship and friendliness. Many have looked forward with great anticipation to the convention because of the opportunity it has afforded for meeting and knowing women and girls with like interests and world-wide vision.

Year	Locals	Members	YWS	Members	Funds
1878	....	.....	....	.....	\$.....
1879	7	.....	....	.....	80.73
1880	36	556	....	.....	413.21
1881	....	529	....	.....	634.45
1882	....	.....	....	.....	802.00
1883	39	652	....	.....	1,119.21
1885	....	548	....	.....	.....
1886	32	476	....	.....	991.57
1889	41	359	....	.....	.....
1890	34	434	....	.....	.....
1891	32	434	....	.....	.....
1893	33	262	....	.....	474.01
1894	38	421	....	.....	630.63
1895	37	573	....	.....	849.58
1896	37	365	....	.....	701.23
1897	41	424	....	.....	714.34
1898	26	400	....	.....	685.32
1899	26	399	....	.....	660.35
1900	27	245	....	.....	810.24
1901	21	243	....	.....	591.60
1902	25	397	....	.....	1,005.00
1903	21	397	....	.....	1,177.55
1904	20	334	....	.....	1,106.63
1905	19	361	....	.....	1,133.54
1906	23	419	....	.....	1,078.87
1907	45	692	....	.....	1,301.70
1908	37	501	3	18	1,425.65
1909	28	408	1	20	1,522.86
1910	36	692	4	88	1,741.35
1911	34	621	2	101	2,148.25
1912	36	810	3	82	2,290.06

Year	Locals	Members	OG	Members	Funds
1913	41	944	13	301	2,818.00
1914	38	903	11	250	3,248.36
1915	38	957	14	308	3,485.06
1916	41	1010	17	365	3,922.40
1917	41	1151	....	.....	4,487.23

Year	Locals	Members	OG	Members	Funds
1918	43	1243	16	367	4,694.43
1919	48	1451	19	349	5,701.57
1920	51	1548	18	358	7,197.82
1921	51	1672	18	352	7,570.25
1922	50	1684	18	411	7,945.21
1923	55	1958	23	508	9,987.87
1924	59	2196	20	463	8,726.36
1925	63	2486	25	553	9,532.61
1926	64	2382	25	581	9,713.24
1927	68	2396	30	732	10,010.26
1928	72	2484	32	722	10,572.88
1929	72	2377	32	762	10,263.15
1930	70	2343	36	789	9,655.57
1931	70	2298	36	757	9,349.95
1932	72	2092	37	810	7,096.47
1933	71	2039	45	922	6,254.86
1934	68	2000	46	902	6,481.60
1935	69	2061	47	946	6,870.52
1936	71	2103	47	844	8,080.17
1937	75	2124	45	877	8,225.75
1938	77	2248	46	825	9,310.49
1939	78	2252	46	789	9,163.82
1940	79	2353	46	817	9,542.95
1941	80	2390	48	817	10,034.44
1942	80	2446	46	797	11,703.49
1943	84	2611	44	796	13,748.34
1944	86	2697	52	865	18,196.60
1945	91	2897	50	873	20,738.57
1946	92	2975	51	843	23,012.72
1947	95	3070	51	791	24,030.30
1948	WSWS 90	2982	43	684	19,430.97
	CSG 7	156	....	.....	.....
1949	WSWS 92	3008	33	544	21,288.07
	CSG 9	195	....	.....	.....
1950	WSWS 90	3054	23	425	21,717.72
	CSG 8	174	....	.....	.....
1951	WSWS 89	3028	15	207	23,321.41
	CSG 9	214	....	.....	.....

## W. M. A. STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE — 1912

1. 25% increase in membership.
2. 25% increase in funds.
3. 25% increase in subscriptions to the Woman's Evangel.
4. A definite pledge made to the branch by every local and Young Women's Missionary Society and paid in full.
5. The pledge paid in equal payments in June, September, December and March.
6. Quarterly reports sent in June, September, December and March by the local Secretary to the Branch Secretary; by the Secretary of the Young Women's Missionary Society to the Branch Secretary of Young Women; by the Secretary of Literature of the local and Young Women's Missionary Society to the Branch Secretary of Literature; also an annual report in March from each of these officers.
7. Letters from officers answered promptly.
8. Woman's Day observed and an offering taken.
9. The observance of the Day of Prayer.

The Standard of Excellence for the branches will also include a 25% increase in new societies.

## EFFICIENCY CHART — 1918-1919

### St. Joseph Branch

	Points
1. Day of Prayer observed on or near Good Friday.....	10
2. Women's Day observed and an offering taken.....	10
3. At least 50% of members using Prayer Cycle.....	10
4. At least 12 regular meetings with devotions at each..	5
5. Average attendance of 50% of active members.....	5
6. A 5% increase in membership, an additional point added for each one added above 5%.....	5
7. Campaign for new members.....	5
8. 4 quarterly and an annual sent to the secretary on time .....	10
9. 4 quarterly and an annual sent to the OG secretary on time .....	10
10. Payment of dues and contingent fund for each member .....	5
11. 10% of the members tithers.....	5
12. A 5% increase in funds.....	5
13. Each new Life Member, Life Director, and Life Patron .....	5
14. A definite pledge made to the branch and paid in full	5
15. Pledge paid to the Branch Treasurer quarterly in dollars only in each fund.....	10

16. Four quarterly and annual report sent to the Treasurer on time.....	10
17. The Evangel in the home of every member.....	10
18. Campaign for Evangel subscriptions.....	5
19. A 5% increase in Evangel subscriptions.....	5
20. The use of a definite mission study.....	10
21. Literature Day observed and an offering taken.....	5
22. Three books read by every member of the society, one home mission, one foreign mission, one inspirational .....	10
23. Lesson given on the use of the Handbook.....	5
24. Using the prepared programs.....	5
25. Four quarterly and annual report sent to the Secretary of Literature on time.....	10
26. As many Thank-offering boxes in use as members enrolled .....	5
27. As many Love Offering boxes in use in the chapter as members enrolled .....	5
28. Observance of Thank-offering Day.....	5
29. Observance of Thanksgiving Praise Service (by chapters) .....	5
30. Annual report sent to Thank-offering Secretary on time .....	5
31. At least one delegate at the annual convention the	

### Women's Society of World Service Goals for Growth — 1951

1. Promote all phases of the Spiritual Life emphasis as outlined in the Manual of Spiritual Living.
2. Present during the year the five emphases of Christian Social Relations.
3. Net increase in subscriptions to the World Evangel.
4. Increase in number completing the Reading Course.
5. Have a study class in Missions or Stewardship or Christian Social Relations.
6. Make use of the program packet in the monthly meetings.
7. Net gain in members.
8. Increase in the average attendance.
9. Increase in missionary giving.
10. Observance of all special days.
11. Cooperation with the young people's missionary program.
12. Promotion of missionary education for children.
13. All reports on time.

Any society attaining 10 of the above goals shall be recognized as a Standard Society. Any society attaining all 13 goals shall be recognized as an Honor Society.

## FOR ALL THE SAINTS WHO FROM THEIR LABORS REST

For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;  
Thou, Lord, their Captain in their well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

—William Walsham How





